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CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Rolfe

1863–1963

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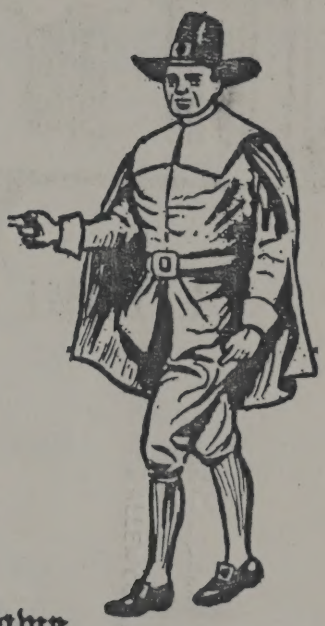
CENTENNIAL HISTORY



Rolfe

Iowa

Iowa

1863—1963

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CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Rolla

1863—1963

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CHANGING TIMES

1863 *to* 1963

Grandpa came in covered wagon
With oxen tilled the soil

His grandson flies around the world
While tractors do his toil.

His next of kin tries other worlds
And shoots right off to Mars

Then flashes news to us on earth
Who SNAIL along in cars.

—by Anna Pollock

Rec'd Feb 23 1977

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CHANGING TIMES

1803 to 1963

Grandpa came in covered wagon
With open rolled the soil
His grandson flies around the world
While tractors do his toil.

His next of kin rules other worlds
And shoots right off to Mars
Then flashes news to us on earth
Who SNAIL along in cars.

—by Anita Pollock

This book is the work of many people. After the project was begun, it became obvious that far too little time had been allotted for a single person or a few persons to write a history of Rolfe. Thus, the writing of this history came to be a group effort.

It is divided into two parts. The first series of articles are factual histories of the town and of those organizations and individuals who founded it and helped it grow.

There is much which is not included here. The intent is to have a general story of the development of a town and so we have included no family histories. For many other subjects the committee was unable to find accurate, clear, records. Nearly all material contributed was used in the making of this book, excepting that which had already been used or was too sketchy to be of value. All facts were checked against old records and are as accurate as possible. Our research made use of the "History of Pocahontas County" written by Flickinger and published in 1904, town council records dating back to 1884, records of organizations, school records, old newspapers and other sources.

The second section is a collection of personal reminiscences or old papers and letters which reflect typical experiences of early times. These were all contributed by early settlers or members of their families.

Among those to whom we are most deeply indebted is 92-year-old Anna Jensen Pollock who composed the poem on our first page and who wrote many of her own recollections. We have also reprinted portions of a series of articles written in 1936 by the late Frank L. MacVey. The changes or deletions were to update the locations or to make the articles more general in character.

Besides the contributing writers the committee received much help from others who located specific material, loaned pictures and checked copy for accuracy. Though they are too numerous to list, without them this book could not have been written.

THEN AND NOW

Rolfe from 1857 to 1963

1. Biographical Sketch of John Rolfe
2. Old Rolfe
3. New Rolfe
4. Rolfe Today
5. Doctors and Dentists
6. Newspapers
7. Railroads
8. School
9. Catholic Church
10. Lutheran Church
11. Methodist Church
12. Presbyterian Church

50711

Biographical Sketch of John Rolfe

(Compiled from the works of Wyndham Robertson and R. A. Brock)

The name Rolfe is Danish. It first occurs in history about A. D. 600 when Rolfe Krake was King of Denmark. (It is worth the parenthesis to repeat, from a Scandanavian writer, that "The graces of his person are said to have equalled those of his mind, and his stature and strength so extraordinary that he was named Krake, a Danish word expressive of these qualities.")

It was brought to England in the person of Rolfe who accompanied the first of the Vikings to over-run England. Without seeing reason to claim or disclaim, for John Rolfe's descent either from the King or a Count, it is thought that he may be presumed to have sprung from some Danish family, of that name and one of many of the race of Vikings who remained in England permanently, after the Danish conquest.

From time lost in the mists of the past, Rolfes have resided in Norfolk County, where still, on their ancestral possessions, many reside. From that country and stock John Rolfe emigrated to Virginia.

The Rolfe family is first mentioned in Doomesday Book (eleventh century). Of this special branch there is a record in "Wide Awake," November 1886, by Mrs. Raymond Brathwayte, an English lady. First records show them as owners of Heacham in Norfolk, where descendants still live. The first entry is of the marriage of Eustace Rolfe and Joanna Jenner, the grandparents of John Rolfe. John Rolfe, their son, was born in 1562. And we find this entry—1582 married John Rolfe and Dorothea Mason. And next, 1585, baptized Eustacius and John, sons of John Rolfe. Thus we find that John was a twin and further in the entry we learn that John and his twin were baptized on May 6th of 1585 and that Eustacius died and was buried, 2d June, 1585. So John Rolfe, the son of John Rolfe and Dorothea (Mason) Rolfe, was born in 1585.

John Rolfe is now mainly remembered as the husband of Pocahontas, but was undoubtedly one of the capital figures of a great epoch—the first permanent English settlement in North America. Yet his name remains almost obscured in history though all the more imperishable, in the brightness of that of his Indian bride, who draws the eyes of the world from him. But if she does thus draw off from him the regard of lovers of all that is good and beautiful, yet they often revert, with admiring respect, to one who was "quick to see and cultivate, the rare worth of the Indian maid, and having turned her from Heathendom, boldly faced the prejudices of race, and with the approval of the Government—in the presence of the Governor—of his own countrymen, and of her rude kinsmen of the Forest—in the sight of all men—in the first Christian Church to be erected in the Dominion of Virginia and by the ministrations of a pioneer of Christianity in the New World, the Reverend Mr. Whitaker—made her his wife." There are many forms of heroism and this was one of them. Not secretly, not shamefacedly, but openly, and avowing and recording the high, pure and loving motives which actuated him "to sweepe," as says, "and to make cleane the path wherein I walke, from all suspicion and doubts, so that present and after times might not justly taxe and taunte sinister aspects alluring him thereunto," he united himself with a noble savage in Christian wedlock in April, 1614.

Quaint and unfashionably made up is Rolfe's letter to the Governor requesting the Governor's permission to wed the Indian maid. It is found in its entirety in the "True Discourse of the Present Estate of Virginia," written by Ralph Hamor, the younger, late secretary of that colony (London 1615), himself an illustrious contemporary and friend of Rolfe. An extract, or two from his lengthy letter is given here:

"Let therefore this, my well advised protestation, which here I make betweene God and my concience be a sufficient witness, at the day of judgement (When the Secrets of all men's hearts will be opened) to condemne me herein, if my cheifest intent and purpose be not, to strive with all my power of body and minde, in the undertaking of so mightie a matter, no way led (so farre forth as man's weakness may permit) with the unbridled desire of carnall affection: but for the good of this plantation, for the honour of our countrie, for the Glory of God, for my owne salvation and for the converting to the true knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, an unbeleeving person, namely Pocahontas. To whom my hartie and best thoughts are, and have long time bin so entangled and inthralled in so intricate a labyrinth, that I was even awearied to unwinde myself thereout."

He attests further, "the cleerness of my concience, clean from filth of impurity, which is, unto me, as a brasen wall." Nor, he adds, "am I in such a desperate estate, that I regard not what becometh of mee; nor am I out of hope but one day to see my country, nor so void of friends, nor mean in birth, but there to obtain a mach to my great content."

Testimony of Rolfe's great merit is given by Sir Thomas Dale, a man of great knowledge of divinity and good conscience in all his doings. He describes Rolfe as a gentleman of good understanding, honest and discreet, with title to the highest respectability and consequence in the settlement in Virginia. This is shown, beyond question, in an historic letter written by him to the King under the title "Report of Condition of the Colony."

The historian Hamor gives John Rolfe the credit for the first planting of tobacco in Virginia. Raleigh was established as the man who commercialized tobacco but credit for its introduction into the colony belongs to Rolfe. It is established that as early as 1612 he grew tobacco upon his estate named Henrico. Tobacco to Virginia was what gold was to Australia. John Rolfe can be considered to occupy a niche in the history of Virginia and be named as a benefactor of his race with Smith and Dale who were among the true founders of Virginia.

Perusing further in this interesting work by Wyndham Robertson, we find that Rolfe and his Indian bride sailed for England and established a home there. Pocahontas was greatly honored by the English people for the part she played in the rescue of John Smith from death at the hands of her father, Powhatan, and her aid in the survival of the Jamestown Colony.

We learn that she mothered one child by John Rolfe, a son named Thomas, who upon his mother's death in 1617 was "taken in hand" by his uncle, Henry Rolfe, and raised to manhood.

John Rolfe returned to the colony after the death of Pocahontas but returned to England again and died there at the age of 32 years. Extracts from the brass belonging on his tomb is in Latin. Translated it runs to this effect: "He profited his own family much while he remained in life; he wished all his neighbors and relations be of greater worth by helping the poor with his means. Nothing could be more amiable than he. The reproaches of many he bore, gently, without offence."

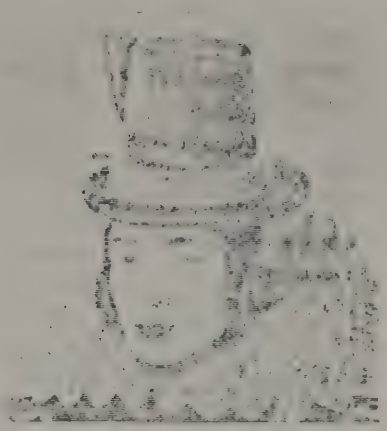
His death occurred suddenly in November. In the inscription it is likened to "an extinguishment of a volume of flame by a mass of water, for he was of great strength and when dying had not completed many years. His death was a grief to many, but it fared very nobly with him, whom a consciousness of a life well spent and a record of many good deeds, does not suffer to perish."

From the same source we learn he had to do with merchant service: "By trading as a merchant he increased his family estate with the export and import which England either abounded or needed; He afforded great service, since in these matters, he devoted his care and energy."

There is an authentic record of John Rolfe and Pocahontas' descendants, down to the seventh generation. We find the name Rolfe ended with Thomas, son of John and Pocahontas, for he left one child by his marriage to Jane Poythress, a daughter Jane who married Colonel Robert Bolling and left a son, Robert Bolling.

All through the seven generations you find the names of John, Rolfe, Pocahontas, Matacoa (another of Pocahontas' Indian names), Powhatan and Rebecca, which was the Christian name given to Pocahontas when she was baptized by the Reverend Mr. Whitaker before her marriage to John Rolfe.

(Compiled by Charlotte Forsyth Scheihing, Homewood, Illinois)



The Indian Princess Pocahontas, in her court costume. Pocahontas and John Rolfe were married in the Episcopal church at Jamestown, witnessed by her two brothers and friends of his. They made their home on Rolfe's plantation, Varina, near Henricus. Five years later, she died of tuberculosis, the weather in London having undermined her health. She was buried in England.

Young Thomas, only child of the Indian Princess Pocahontas and John Rolfe, who, at the death of his mother, and at her request, was sent to England to be reared and educated. When a young man, he married an English girl of high rank, then returned to Virginia to be a planter and soldier. Today, after 350 years, many people claim to be descendants of Pocahontas.

Old Rolfe, 1857 to 1882

"Old Rolfe," two and one half miles north and two miles east of the present town of Rolfe, the first town in Pocahontas county, was started in 1857 when four young men, Wm. H. Hait, Robert Struthers, A. H. Malcolm and Guernsy Smith traveled northward out of Fort Dodge by oxcart along the Des Moines River until they reached the northeast corner of Des Moines township.

Mr. Hait, from Milton, N. Y., born 1833, chose the highest knoll in the county to establish his claim, bordering on the west side of the river for about a half mile, richly endowed with timber and an abundance of water, then westward to eventually include 280 acres of land. This choice was probably determined by the fact that it reminded him of the green valleys and wooded hills of his hometown in Ulster Co. along the Hudson River. He later named it Highland.

Out of this small beginning, quickly grew a thriving frontier community. Its history is primarily the life story of this man. His contemporaries said of him "a leader in thought and action and throughout his official career proved himself strictly honest and upright," or as another has expressed it "one of the best men who ever held public office in Pocahontas County."

"He lives most who thinks most,
Feels the noblest and acts the best."

Many things had to be done in order to establish living quarters; food was purchased at Fort Dodge with most people walking, some sort of temporary shelters were necessary aside from bunking in or under an oxcart, while building sod houses or lean-to's, then later log cabins, eventually frame houses.

Mr. Hait borrowed a steam saw mill from a neighbor living in Humboldt County to cut timber for his first home, a log cabin which was finished by 1859. The following year it was used for a school room. Miss Helen Harvey, a refined young woman who had acquired a very good education in her Vermont home before coming to Pocahontas County with her parents, was the teacher. The following year, 1861, a brick school house was built just west of the Hait cabin. Miss Harvey was the teacher—thus she had the honor and distinction of being not only the first teacher, but teaching in the first public school building in the county.

To accommodate the rapidly incoming population stores were needed for food, clothing, house furnishings, and to supply badly needed farm tools; repair shops were set up, land had to be surveyed, roads laid out, bridges built, claims adjusted and approved.

These rapidly moving events made it necessary to set up laws regulating the conduct of business and the ownership of property, so an election was called for March 15th, 1859. Two precincts were established, one at Lizard where an earlier settlement had taken place, the other at Highland.

HAIT HOUSE, BUILT IN 1867

BRUCE McEWEN GENERAL STORE
Built in 1860

There were seventeen votes cast. At this first election Mr. Hait was chosen treasurer and recorder. One of the first actions taken after election was to select a Board of Supervisors. Mr. Hait, because of his recognized ability as an administrator was made chairman of the Board. His belief in a "government of laws, rather than a government by men" and that "we must move with dignity," and "with law and order" assured the settlers their affairs would be honestly and fairly executed. During those early organization days, he filled many of the township and county offices, often resigning after setting up the routine to take another office for the same purpose. Aside from those already mentioned, he was Clerk of the Township, Clerk of the District Court, Assessor, Justice of the Peace, County Superintendent of School and Deputy Provost Marshal of the sixth Congressional District, then comprising thirty-three counties.

The same year that the public school building was erected, a contract was let for a court house—and built the same year 1861, west of the school house. The activities of this community attracted the attention of people traveling by foot, ox-cart, stage coach, covered wagon or on horseback. It grew rapidly—two general stores and a blacksmith shop were kept busy. Farmers, laborers, tradespeople, carpenters and professional people investigated—some remained.

A post office became a necessity. Mail delivery from Ft. Dodge was irregular, so application for mail service was made by Mr. Hait, requesting that the name of Milton be used—his home town in N. Y. This request was refused because there was another town in Iowa by that name. Court, then in session, was presided over by Judge Converse, whose wife was a Virginia born and bred lady. All loyal Virginians loved the story of the romance of the Indian Princess Pocahontas and John Rolfe, so when she suggested "Rolfe", the name was accepted without a dissenting voice. Mr. Hait was appointed the first postmaster in the county. The post office was established in one corner of the Bruce-McEwen general store.

It has been said that the postmaster gathered up all the mail at closing time, carried it to his home and concealed it under his bed.

FIRST POCAHONTAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BUILT IN 1861

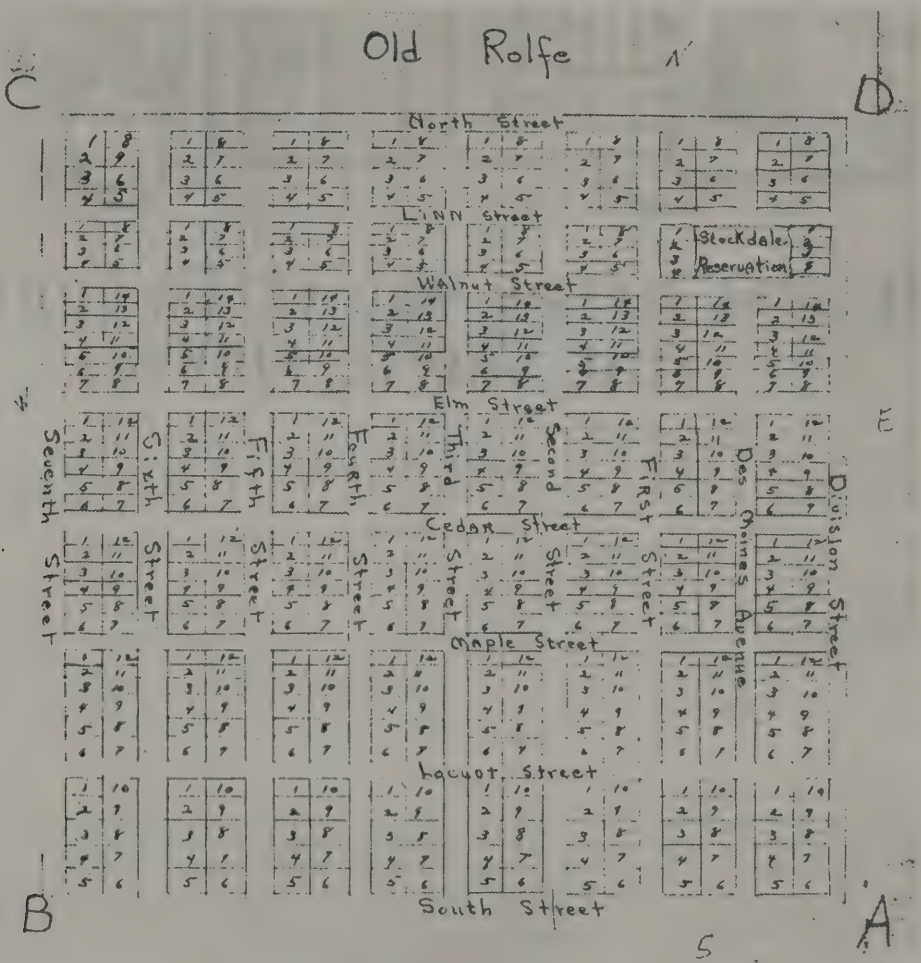
In 1867 Mr. Hait having previously cut lumber from timber growing on his land, built a house so well that a man of distinguished character must have been its creator. The first frame house in the county is still intact, typical of the simple, dignified, unpretentious, well proportioned, well detailed architecture that is so pleasing and so worth preserving, not only for Rolfe and the county, but for all Iowa, if not all America.

Much of the structure of this six room house is of the original lumber, both exterior and railing, all of black walnut, quite beautiful. interior. The polished stairway, spindles and

Many people believe this old house worthy of restoration as a museum, a fitting memorial dedicated to the achievements of our pioneer farmers and settlers, rugged, self-reliant, independent.

By 1875 the population growth had increased so much over the county, that an election was held to vote on a more centrally located court house, which carried by a heavy majority. So the next year the court house records were removed to Pocahontas, the place chosen for the new court house.

Thus began the decline of "Old Rolfe," slowly at first, but in 1882 when the C.N.A.R.R. was surveyed two miles south, the rapid decline followed. The stores, shops, and most of the homes relocated at the present site of Rolfe. Mr. Hait remained in his home until his death in 1907. Hait House is the only original building left intact, a ghost town.

(Contributed by Fae Squires Schon)

PLAT OF OLD ROLFE

EXCERPTS FROM OLD RECORDS

Filed May 22nd, 1861

A.B.C.C. (corners of plot) represents the SW 1/4 of 26 township "93" North of range Number 31 west of the 5th P.M., Iowa, which was surveyed and laid out in lots and streets in Jan., A.D. 1861 by Egbert Bagg a citizen of Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

All lots in said town are 60 x 125 except those in blocks 7 and 8 are 46 x 140 and the latter are 46 x 120 and those in blocks 6, 5, 52, 51, 50, 49 are 46 x 125.

All streets running north and south are 100 feet

wide except Division and Seventh, the former is 35 and the latter 85 feet wide.

All streets running east and west are 70 feet wide except south and north street. The former being 26 and latter 30 feet wide.

Good and substantial stakes are set at each corner of each lot and stones at the cropings of the street.

All of said land within the bounds of A B C D as represented on this map shall constitute Milton, Pocahontas County, Iowa.

Always excepting and reserving the part marked on this plot as Stockdale Reservation which is here by given and granted to Pocahontas County Courthouse, as the same shall be used for the purpose of a County Seat.

But if said County Seat shall be removed then the title to said land shall be void.

Witness our Hands this 11th day of May 1861

John M. Stockdale
Pattie C. Stockdale

I, Egbert Bagg, do hereby certify that the within plot of Milton was surveyed by me and that the streets and alleys and list of lots and blocks are as described in this Plot according to the best of my knowledge and ability so help me God.

Egbert Bagg,
Engineer and Surveyor

State of Iowa)
Pocahontas County) SS

On this 11th Day of May 1861, personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John M. Stockdale and Pattie C. Stockdale, his wife to me well known to be the owners and proprietors of the Town Site situated and being on the south west quarter of section 26, township No. 93, North of Range 31, West of the 5th P.M. Iowa, who have and by these presents do dispose of said land according to the Map and reference with in written and acknowledged said disposition was with their free consent and in accordance with their desires and the said Pattie C. Stockdale hereby expressly relinquishes her right of dower in and to the above described land.

Witness My Hand the day and year above written.

Wm. H. Hait,
Justice of Peace

Office of Board of Supervisors Jan. 7, 1861

On motion Ova Harvey was made chr. Harvey, Hait, Collins, Slopon were present.

Ova Harvey—2 yr term.
David Slopon—1 yr. term.
Michael Collins—1 yr. term.

Board adjourned to meet 1st Monday in Feb. A.D. 1861.

Wm. H Hait,
Clerk Pro tem

Office of B. of S. Feb. 4th A.D. 1861

Resignation of David Slopon, supervisor of Des Moines Township, Honorable John A. James, County Judge & Samuel Harris, Clerk of District Court—These were accepted.

Adjourned to meet 1st Mon. in May A D. 1861.

Wm. H Hait,
Clerk Pro tem

Office of B. of S. May 6th A.D. 1861

Perry Nowlen was nominated as Supervisor to fill Slopon's place. He accepted the appointment and took the oath of office.

Augustus Malcolm was appointed clerk of the board until his successor is elected and qualified with a salary of $250 per annum.

Belknap appointed to office of Co. Judge.

Wm. Hait was appointed to office of Co. Supt. of Common Schools until his successor is elected and qualified.

Bond of Malcolm presented and approved.

On motion of Mr. Collins it was decided to allow $2.50 (later in June decided to lower this to $1.50) a day for all township officers whose fees are not prescribed by law

On motion the teachers fund in the hand of the Co. Treas. was apportioned equally among the districts in proportion to the number of children in each district.

Robert Struthers presented a bill of $8 for services rendered as a surveyor. Allowed, and warrent drawn for same.

Patrick Collins was allowed $1.25 for services rendered as chain carrier and warrent drawn for same.

Perry Nowlen was allowed $2 for wolf scalp.

Robert Struthers was allowed $2.50 for services rendered as Township Trustee for Des Moines township.

Henry Jarvis was allowed $4 for services rendered as Assessor for Des Moines township.

On motion of Mr. Collins a Co. road was laid out with bridge across the Des Moines river and for the accomodation of the settlers. This being an amendment to first petition presented Aug. 6th A.D. 1860.

Amendment carried and John James was appointed commissioner to view the same.

Motion made and carried that the Dist. clerk be authorized to order the making of the desks book cases and a half doz chairs for each township.

June 3rd 1861

Henry Jarvis allowed $1 for wolf scalp.

John James presented a bill for services.

(Co. road)

1 day as township clerk	1.50
2 day viewing the road	3.00
5 days as Commissioner or road ..	7.50
Furnishing stakes for road ...	2.00
Cattle & Wagon 1 day	1.00
	15.00

Board deducted 1 day as
Commissioner 1.50
Allowed 13.50

Wm. Hait presented a bill and it was allowed —$12.50 for stationery and books.

David Slopon allowed $13.50 for 6 days for self and team as assistant surveyor and road viewer.

Wm. Hait presented to board a balance sheet of his account with Revenue of Co. School fund, Teachers fund, Road tax, School house tax for years 1859-1860. Approved.

CLERK'S OFFICE

June 4th 1861

Board proceeded to levy taxes.
State tax of 1½ mill on the dollar
County tax of 4 mills on the dollar
Teacher fund tax of 1 mill on the dollar
Schoolhouse tax of 3½ mill on the dollar
Contingent expenses tax ½ mill on the dollar
Road tax of 1½ mill on the dollar
Motion made in May was recinded and said township officers were allowed $1.50 per day for services.

H. A. Malcolm,
Clerk of Board of Supervisors

Clerk of Court $3.00 for 1 yr. July 1861

Aug. 12, 1861

On motion it was agreed to receive road surveyed by Robert Struthers.

On motion Board of Supervisors adjourned until after dinner.

Wm. Hait presented his resignation of the office of Co. Supt.—rejected.

Malcolm resigned as Dist Clerk—accepted.

Sept. 3rd, 1861

Perry Nowlen was appointed to take Counsel as to damage done to the courthouse by the late gale of wind.

Jan. 7 A D. 1862

Wm. Hait was allowed $6.00 for a safe bought of him for the County.

Wm. Hait was allowed $5 for wood for courthouse.

Walter Ford was allowed $5.20 for one day services as clerk of Election and carrying mail to Ft. Dodge.

Aug 5, 1862

A motion made to let Wm. Hait repair bridges on Beaver and Pilot creek.

Sept. 2nd 1862

Allowed Thomas Dawson $2 for carrying County Books from Ft. Dodge to Pocahontas Co. Seat.

Jan. 6, 1863

Classified property to be assessed:

Working oxen	from $25 to $50 a pr.
3 yr. old steers	from $12 to $18 each
2 yr. old steers	from $6 to $10 each
Yearling	from $4 to $7 each
Milch cows	from $1 to $10 each
2 yr. old heifers	from $5 to $8 each
Yearling heifers	from $4 to $7 each
Horses	from $15 to $75 each
Swine	from 50c to $1.00 each
Real Estate	$2 per acre

History of Rolfe, 1881 to 1963

The history of the present town of Rolfe begins with the month of May 1881, when the survey of the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railroad (now the M & St. L division of the C & NW) crossed that of the Toledo and Northwestern (now the C & NW railroad). On Jan. 19, 1882, a track was laid to Rolfe Junction, the grading having been completed five days previous. A depot was erected in January 1882, two miles west where Rubens was platted on the line of the railway. Two years later at the request of the people it was moved to its present location in Rolfe.

On Sept. 8, 1881, Wm. D. McEwen, a practical surveyor and County Treasurer at that time, surveyed and platted the town of Rolfe at the junction of these two railroads. The original plot contained seventeen blocks lacking only three blocks at the southwest corner of being a complete rectangle, extending eastward from the railroad five blocks and north four blocks.

The streets running north and south from the west side eastward were named Des Moines Avenue (100 feet) Garfield street (80 feet), Grant (66 feet) and Lincoln (66 feet). The principal street running east on the south was called Broad (100 ft.) and the one north of it, Walnut (66 feet) and Elm Streets. This was a pretty site for a town, possessing natural advantages that combined to make it desirable both as a commercial and residence center.

As soon as the survey was completed, lots were purchased by George W. Horton, merchant and postmaster of Old Rolfe, who in the fall of 1881 built the first store building, a two story frame building on the northwest corner of Broad and Garfield known as the National Bank Building. James Parks, of Powhatan, erected a barn large enough for the accommodation of twelve teams. The lumber for Mr. Horton's building was hauled from Humboldt and Dakota City, the terminus of the Toledo branch at that time.

The post office was established April 1, 1882 under the name of Rolfe, with Henry Tilley as the first postmaster. His daughter, Mrs. Anne Howe, still resides in Rolfe.

On December 21, 1883, the citizens by a vote decided to incorporate. During the two years Rolfe was founded a wild prairie had been transformed into an incorporated town of 300 inhabitants that enjoyed the advantages of two railroads, three general and two hardware stores, one bank, one drug store, one church, and a school building with two rooms.

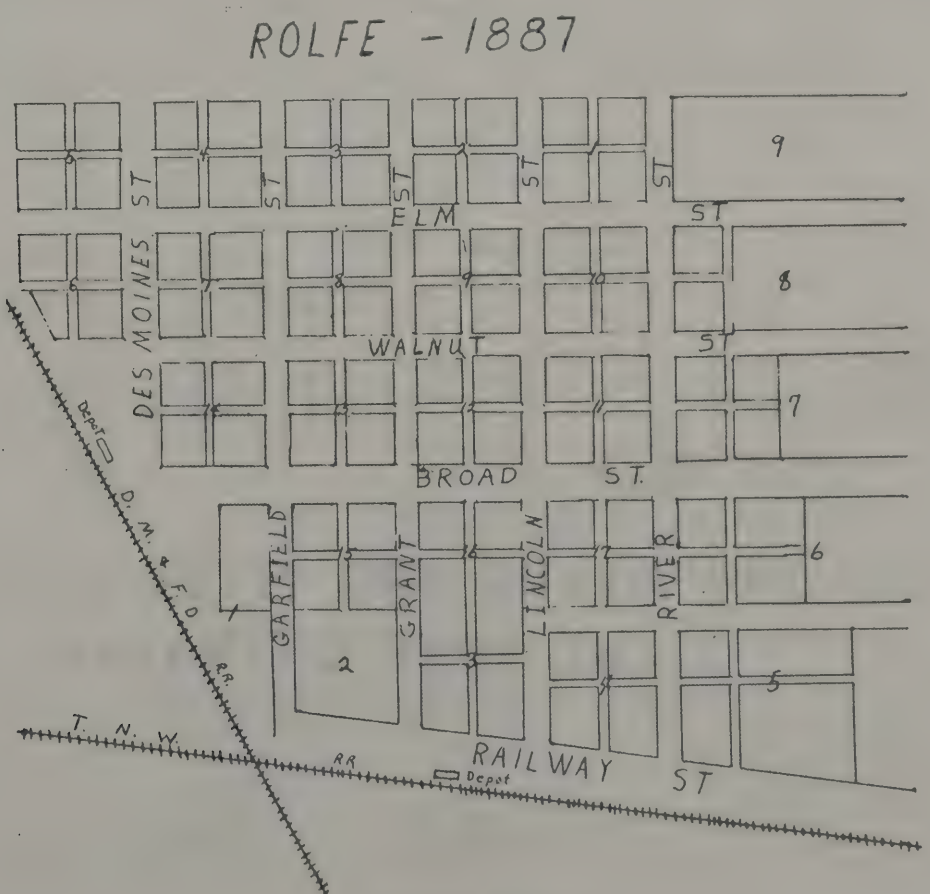
The first child born was Nettie Clason on July 25, 1865, and the first marriage was that of her sister, Sarah, who became the wife of George W. Heald in their father's log house. Mr. Heald's grandson, Walter, now resides on a farm southeast of Rolfe.

The parsonage was moved to Rolfe from Old Rolfe with most of the minister's household goods in the house. This house was placed north of the site of the present Methodist Church. Recently it was torn down to make way for Fred Smith's new house. This parsonage was soon sold after its removal to Rolfe.

In February 10, 1889, there were the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Neither denomination owned a home for its minister. The Methodist minister was a good carpenter and during the spring and summer of this year he built the Methodist parsonage. He was a very fine looking man with a long beard and wore an old Prince Albert coat for work. He rode a high wheel bicycle and as he rode his flowing whiskers and long black coat would fly back like sails on a ship.

I would like to tell you of the courageous, enthusiastic women of the Excelsior society of the Presbyterian Church as printed in the Reveille of March 21, 1889. There were these announcements: "The Ladies Excelsior Society of the Presbyterian Church will present 'The Deestrict Skewl' at the opera house March 27, and 28." There were 30 characters in this play. The admission price was 35c and 25c, but hogs were only $4.00 a hundred, corn 18c a bushel, butter 14c a pound and eggs 10c a dozen.

The second: "The Excelsior Society will give a social and supper at the home of Mrs. Frank Thornton, Friday evening, March 22, 1889. Supper served from 6:30 until 10 o'clock. Bill of fare: Cereal compound, coagulated curd churched cream, continental craze, carved cold creature, chow chow cucumbers, cider cured country cousins



PLAT OF ROLFE

ROLFE IN 1886

confronts, confection covered cakes, and the drinks—cordial cheer, creature cheer, creamed coffee and crystal clear." These women worked under great disadvantages when they decided to serve a public supper, they would take any room available, get an old stove and use the cheapest of Iowa's soft coal for heating, gather the tables, chairs and dishes from their homes, carry the water, pumped from a well perhaps two blocks distant, and use kerosene lamps for lighting, and thus with their bravery and determination were always ready to meet every obligation they assumed, and laid a wonderful and lasting foundation every member could build and carry on.

The first minister, Rev. Richards, had a charge consisting of Rolfe, Havelock, Laurens and Plover. Church services were held in the schoolhouse there being only one service each Sunday, the Methodists alternating with the Presbyterians. The Sunday School was a union of the Methodists and Presbyterians with a Presbyterian superintendent, Wm. C. Kennedy, whose descendants live in Rolfe and on a farm south of Rolfe.

In 1883, a church was erected where the present Methodist Church stands and was a frame building facing the south with the pulpit in the north, the choir in the northeast corner. The northwest corner had seats facing east and was called the "Amen Corner."

The Presbyterians, Catholics, Baptists and Danish Lutherans followed by the Norwegians, soon erected commodious church buildings, and they were served by resident pastors. The services were well attended by both men and women except during the severe storms of the winter 1887 and 1888. There was a terrible blizzard on January 12, 1888, that blocked the railroads and filled the highways with impassible drifts, causing many to lose their lives.

The people of Rolfe and vicinity believed in the public worship of Almighty God, in having good churches for that purpose and in making good use of them.

In December 1881 the first public school was established (under the name of Maggie Hall) in a building that stood north of the First National Bank building, and for some months afterward was used for Sunday School and Church services.

GRANT'S FIRST LUMBER YARD, BUILT IN 1891

The Independent District of Rolfe was established in January 1884. The first schoolhouse was in the building which is now Thora Pederson's home. Two teachers were employed at first. On March 31, 1890, a nw brick building containing four more rooms was added. These buildings were erected on the present site of the Rolfe schools, the grade building being where the bus barns are located. These were the largest and finest buildings in the county and the efficient work done in their public schools was a source of pride to the people of Rolfe. The course of instruction embraced all the grades from the first to, and including, the twelfth.

In November 1900 Mr. G. W. Schee, of Primghar, a liberal friend of education offered the people of Rolfe $100 if they would raise $250 more for the purpose of putting a good library in the Rolfe High School. The money was raised, the Library, costing $350, was obtained before Christmas 1900, and formed a valuable literary equipment for the Rolfe schools.

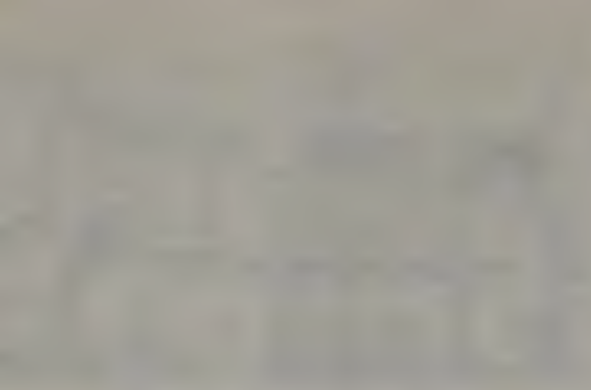
The Reveille, a Republican weekly paper, was established at Rolfe to meet its growing business demands, by James J. Bruce and Frank H. Plumb, July 12, 1888, and they continued thus until May 1, 1890, when the latter sold his interest to the former. On October 1, 1890, J. H. Lighter became a half owner with J. J. Bruce and this partnership continued until January 1, 1894, when Marion Bruce bought his father's interest in it. On September 1, 1895, A. R. Thornton bought the half interest of J. H. Lighter, and the partnership of Bruce and Thornton continued until August 4, 1900, when A. R. Thornton became the sole owner of the paper and then sold a half interest to it to Lottie Thornton, his wife. The Reveille was well equipped for promoting the interests of Rolfe and Pocahontas county, and during every year after it was founded, it was one of the official papers of the county.

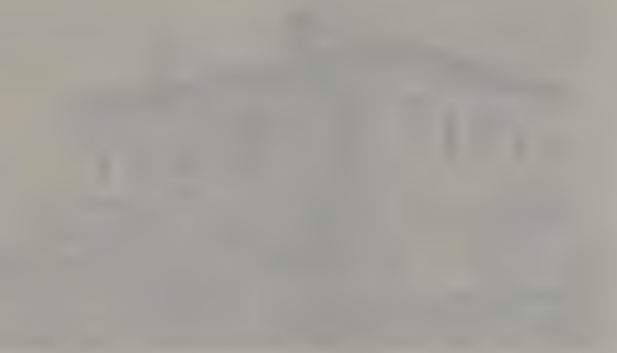
OLD ROLFE HOUSE, 1889

HOTEL TREMONT

The Rolfe Tribune, a Republican paper too, was established March 1, 1898, by J. H. Lighter, in response to a request by the people for a semi-weekly paper. It was issued on Tuesdays and Fridays. It was devoted to the best interests of the community and won its way to a favorable recognition on the part of the public and received a cordial and liberal patronage. We now have

ROLFE MAIN STREET, 1889





one weekly paper, The Rolfe Arrow, edited by Mrs. Emma Swan.

The Rolfe Telephone Company with a capital of $10,000.00 was organized on December 9, 1889. W. P. Wheeler was elected the first president, Ward Ferguson, vice-president and Charles E. Fraser, secretary and treasurer. On January 29, 1900, the council made provision for the people to extend this company a franchise that includes the right to maintain a local telephone system in Rolfe for a period of twenty-five years with the central office in the room over the store of G. W. Core (now the Rolfe Variety). Miss Lulu E. Ransom and M. W. Coffin were appointed operators for the day and night work respectively. The annual meeting of the stockholders was held on the first Monday in April. In 1938 the Central Iowa Telephone Company purchased this telephone company and in 1955 the dial phones were installed.

In 1895, R. B. Brown of Grand Junction came to Rolfe, built a three story frame building 26 x 100 feet and supplied it with the most approved appliances for packing eggs in pickle during the summer season. Employment was given to fifteen to thirty persons and forty to fifty carloads of eggs could be found in storage representing an annual investment of $50,000.00. The eggs were purchased when the price was low and they were immediately placed in pickle in the cellar, in large vats that held 8,000 dozen each. The pickle was a compound that preserved them as fresh in appearance as on the day they were laid and they remained in it until the market promised a profitable margin. They were then lifted from the vats, carried upstairs, wiped and cased for shipment. They were always shipped in carload lots and usually to New York City.

By increasing the price paid for them when they were cheap, this establishment maintained a local demand for eggs that attracted them to Rolfe, from the various towns along the two railroads, centering there, to Dakota and Minnesota lines. When an establishment of this sort was maintained with profit, it became a great benefit to the community in which it was located.

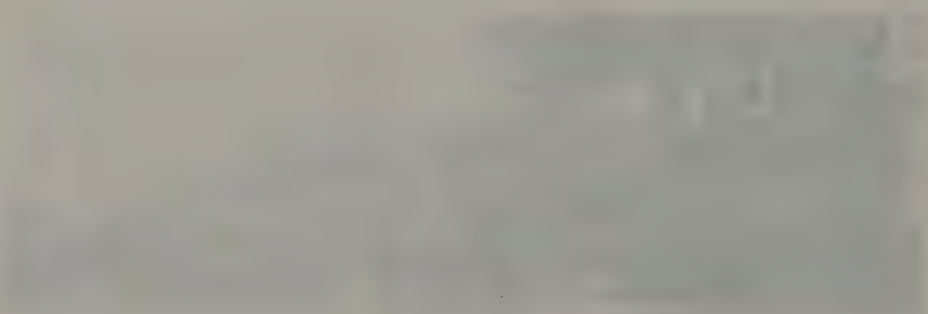
While R. B. Brown continued in charge of this establishment for some time, in later years he had several of Rolfe's leading business men associated with him as proprietors. In 1903 the partnership of Charlton and Bowen was formed. On Dec. 19, 1929, this egg house burned and Rolfe lost one of its great businesses.

The office of the Pocahontas County Fire and Lightning Insurance Association was at the home of its secretary, J. J. Bruce, Rolfe, until October 19, 1899; then it was at the home of P. J. Shaw near Plover. In March 26, 1890, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, officers elected, and sixteen directors, one for each township in the county. On January 1, 1891, the required amount of application having been received, this association began to do business and issued policies to the amount of $5,000.00. The membership fee was $1.00 and the contingent fee collected at the time the policy was issued was two mills on each dollar of insurance. This organization was formed at the request of many farmers, who had been members of mutual companies in other parts of this and other states, when it was found that reliable insurance was furnished at one-half the cost charged by the old line companies. It insured farm property, including buildings, their contents, machinery, farm produce and livestock, but did not take any single risk of over $2,000.00. The annual meetings were held in the month of October and while the officers were elected by the directors, every member had a vote in the selection of the directors.

This association became a permanent institution founded on a sound financial basis. The management if its affairs was in the hands of men who successfully worked out their own destiny by a long residence in this county, and saved their friends in rural districts hundreds of dollars by affording them safe insurance at greatly reduced rates.

It was as good a policy for the farmer to carry a reasonable amount of insurance as it was for the business man. It was the best way of contributing one's share toward helping those so unfortunate as to lose their property by fire or tornado, and when one contributed in this way to help others, he was paying for his own protection.

CHARLTON-BOWEN EGG PLANT, 1928



SUPERINTENDENT, Rolfe Brick & Tile Co.

ROLFE BRICK & TILE CO., 1901

This company, now known as the Pocahontas Mutual Insurance Association with headquarters in Laurens, has over fifty million dollars insurance in force. The present board of directors includes O. E. Lehnus, the association president, and N. A. (Jim) Wilson of Rolfe.

The Rolfe Brick and Tile plant was built in the summer of 1901.

Herman A. Nelson was the superintendent of the plant. G. A. Dawson, his brother-in-law, worked with him as engineer. They employed as many as 15 and 18 at times.

The tile was in great demand so it was common to see many wagons lined up early in the morning waiting for a kiln to be opened.

About 1909 the tile factory was sold to a Mr. Everett who operated it for a year or two. In 1913 the Thompson Bros. bought the factory.

The Thompson Bros tore down the buildings, sold the machinery, engines and other things used in making tile. Some of it was sold as far south as Georgia.

The Thompson Bros then went into the ice business. By filling the excavation made by mining clay, a building was erected to store the ice. About 600 tons were cut each winter. Ice was sold wholesale to Charlton and Bowen egg plant. About 16 men were employed in the winter putting up this ice.

From Rolfe and vicinity the following were volunteers in the war with Spain in Cuba in 1898:

Louie Peterson, enlisted April 1898, Co. F, 49th Reg.

Benjamin Everson, enlisted June 24, Co. H, 52nd Reg.

Geo. W. Tremain, enlisted June 10, Co. G. 52nd Reg.

Edward R. Ashley, enlisted June 23, Co. G. 52nd Reg.

Andrew Denend, enlisted June 23, Co. G. 52nd Reg.

Mid Roberts, enlisted June 23, Co. G. 52nd Reg.

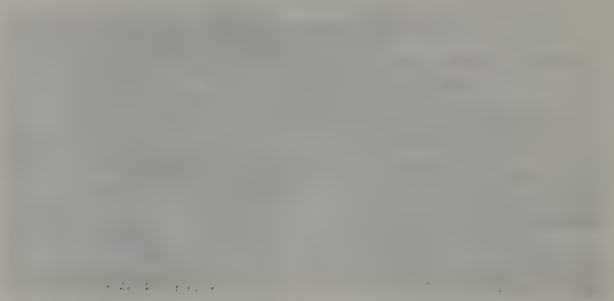
Homer Sanford, enlisted June 23, Co. G. 52nd Reg.

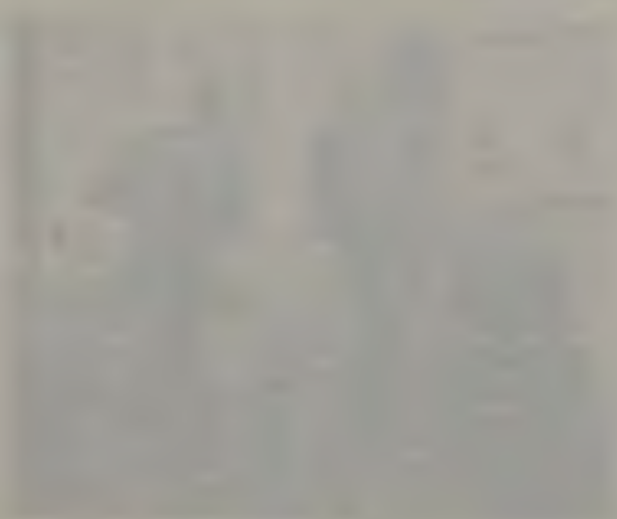
Louie Peterson became a corporal in July. Companies F. H. and G. were known as the Davenport, Sioux City, and Webster City companies, respectively. On June 23rd, when the last four left Rolfe, a farewell meeting was held at the western Iowa, mustered in at Camp McKinley, was delivered by C. C. Delle. The 52nd regiment, to which most of them belonged, was from Northdepot and after music by the band, an address Des Moines, May 25, 1898, and arrived at Camp Thomas, Chickamouga, May 31st. It was assigned to the campaign in Porto Rico as a part of the Third Brigade, Second Division of the Third Army Corps, but was returned to Des Moines August 30th, and the men from Rolfe were mustered out October 30, 1898, after a service of four months in camp.

At the first election held in Rolfe the following citizens were chosen as the first officers of the town: Mayor, J. J. Bruce; councilmen, F. H. Symes and Wm. Jarvis, one year; J. Lamband,

EARLY SETTLERS

Seated—A. H. Malcom, W. D. McEwen, Mr. Hoag; standing—Wm. Hait, J. J. Bruce





ROLFE FIRE COMPANY

M. Lathrop, two years; recorder, E. W. Duke; treasurer, John Lee. The first meeting of the council was held March 19, 1884. At this meeting the council arranged for a sidewalk, and at the second one held March 24, they determined the boundaries of the town as including all of Section 5, 640 acres. On December 1, 1884, they gave the Toledo and Northwestern Railroad a strip of land thirty feet in width on Railroad Street extending from the west side of Grant Street to the east line of Secion 5, for depot grounds and sidetracks. On February 2, 1882, D. D. Day was appointed the first assessor of Rolfe.

The following amusing incident, illustrative of the old-time way of thinking, is said to have occurred: As the time of the annual election drew near one of the early settlers went to his neighbor and inquired if he would not be willing to take the office of justice of peace. The one whom he addressed was a deacon in a church and he asked that a reasonable mount of time be given to consider a matter of so much importance. A few days later he was overheard musing aloud over the matter as follows:

> "The people now call me Deacon X and that sounds well in the ears of the Lord. If I were elected, they will call me'Squire X', and that will sound well in the ears of the people. I believe, that I had better take the office."

First record of the council meeting in the new town of Rolfe is dated March 19, 1884. The first ordinance passed at this meeting was to provide for sidewalks on certain streets. These were wooden sidewalks to be constructed by property owners under certain specifications. Material was two inch planks attached to a wooden frame with spike nails. It was the duty of James Lothian who was appointed first marshal and street commissioner to supervise the maintenance of these walks, thus protecting the town against lawsuits. All crossings were at the expense of the town.

June 30, 1884, an ordinance was passed against shooting firecrackers on the streets, near buildings or horses.

December 1, 1884, the council passed an ordinance for the payment of a license of $1.00 for 'Bowery dances' and $300 per year for the sale of pop, cider and other drinks not prohibited by law. Bagatelle and billiard tables were taxed $12 per table.

Property tax in 1884 was 2 mills.

On March 13, 1885, the annual treasurer's report showed total receipts to be $69.00, total disbursements $57.40, leaving a balance of $11.60.

The first fire department was established with the purchase of ladders in March 1885 and first ordinance on fire safety was no stove pipes through the roofs of houses. In 1889 sixty citizens petitioned for a town well, hose and hand engine. Firemen were volunteers with no salary. Engine was pulled by men. "The fact has been noted that during the first eighteen years of the town's history not a business block or private residence was destroyed by fire."

First audit of the town books was in April 1886.

Also in 1886 a poll tax of $4.00 was established which required each male citizen over 21 years to pay one half in cash and one half in road

work. $1.50 per day was allowed for one man and $3.00 per day for man and team.

About 1902 a gas company was organized. Mains were laid, street lights erected at block corners and it was a gala day for Rolfe when the local paper announced "the glim will be turned on at 7 P.M." of a given day. The company was also given a contract to pump water for the town.

With growth and improvements life was beginning to be more complex and called for repairs on buildings and equipment, assessments were raised and challenged, gas and water rates were established, also a dump ground.

In 1904-1907 Clinton-Garfield Cemetery Board was established.

The Clinton Township Cemetery (9 acres) is located on the southwest corner of Section 4 one half mile southeast of Rolfe. In 1890 a row of evergreens was planted around it and some through it. This city of the dead has become the last resting place of representatives of many of the pioneer families. Now we have added another section south of the old one, which was obtained from J. C. Nelson Nov. 26, 1940.

Hitching posts were ordered from Main Street. Streets were widened and extended and alleys opened up. The latter were a necessity for the delivery of fuel used in those days, namely cobs, wood and coal which was put in small sheds on the back of each lot.

During the early years the council acted as a Board of Health and as such ordered the slaughter house moved out of town. Also quarantine of all families with contagious diseases such as small pox, diphtheria, measles, etc. This order met many times with objections, but was rigidly enforced.

Surrounding towns with epidemics were declared "off limits" and no one including railroad personnel could go there and return.

In 1910 the following maintenance equipment was in the hands of the street commissioner:

4 shovels	1 scythe
1 hammer	2 saws
3 spades	3 lanterns
1 ax	2 road drags
3 scrapers	3 sickles
1 mower	1 plow
1 grindstone	

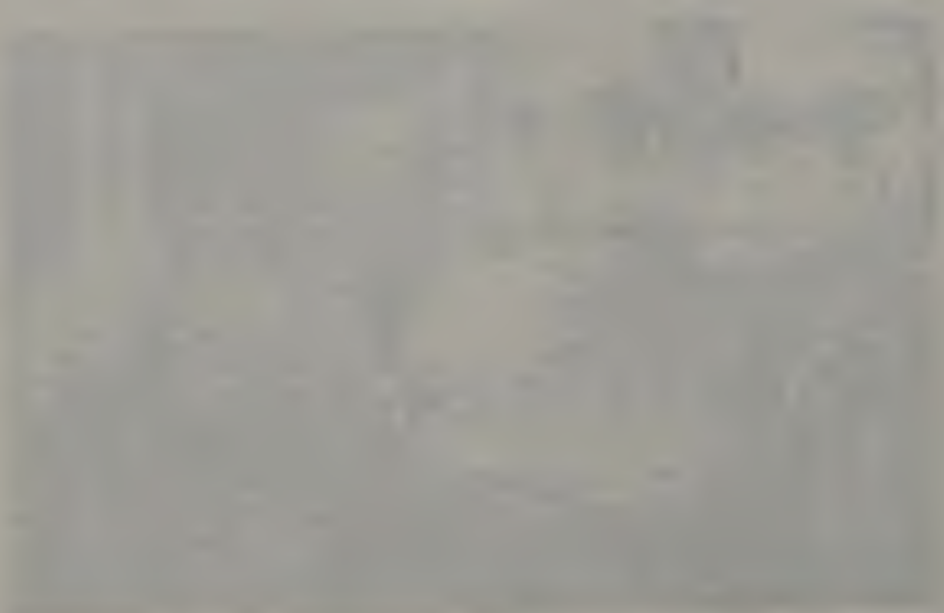
At various times the town had a curfew which was rung at 8 P.M. Anyone under 16 years must be off the streets unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

Soon after Rolfe was founded some thoughtful and observing citizens expressed regret that a public square or park had not been left in the center of it for the pleasurable and healthful enjoyment of the people. In February 1898 Wm. D. McEwen gave and the city council accepted forty acres located south within the corporate limits and known the previous ten years as the Rolfe Driving Park.

About the year 1888, this land was sold to the Rolfe Driving Park Association for a fairground and race course. However, it proved a source of financial loss, was redeemed and deeded to the town of Rolfe for a public park. This park in the coming years when improved and planted with trees, became a very beautiful place and the interest of the people increased with the progress of the years.

In 1916 'electroliers' were installed in the intersection of principal streets but were moved to street corners upon petition of citizens.

READY FOR THE 4TH OF JULY, 1910
Front seat—Lulu Perrigan, Beryl White; back seat—Mrs. Hille, Mabel Perrin



A water tower was constructed and sewer system established. Total cost of system $5,950.

In 1923 an ordinance concerning dances was passed. They were strictly licensed and were revoked if rules were violated. Closing time was 11:55 P.M. Saturday nights and 1 P.M. on week nights. Immoral dances such as grizzly bear, bunny hug, Texas Tommy, shimmy toddle or cheek to cheek, were not to be permitted. No girls under 16 years could attend and jazz music was strictly prohibited.

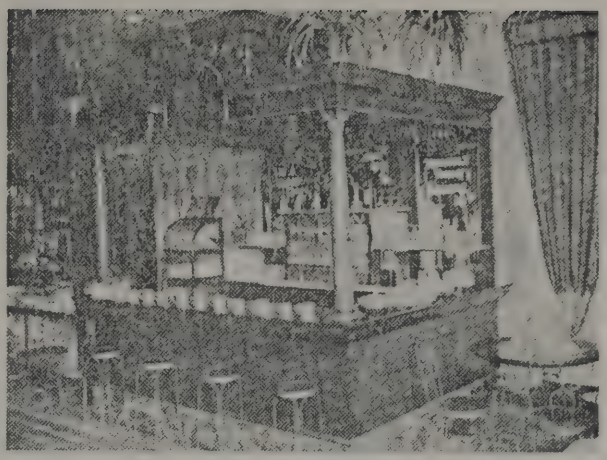
During the severe winter of 1936, restrictions were placed on business hours and all orders for coal were handled through the mayor's office.

In 1936 after a lengthy discussion and consideration of petitions against it, decision was reached to pave Broad and Garfield streets. Traffic signs were also erected.

About 1930 Rolfe Woman's Club was responsible for establishing and maintaining a town library. On June 22, 1946, this became a public library and a board established.

During the early years the social life of the community was centered in the churches. Here it was that women met for social affairs and to plan money making projects to help with the finances of their church. Usually there would be three organizations, namely a Ladies Aid Society, a Home Missionary and Foreign Missionary Society. The name of each adequately defines their purposes.

Later small groups of women found satisfaction in meeting afternoons first for purely social contacts, later developing into study clubs. One such group called themselves the embroidery club and was a social group. As new members joined



SODA FOUNTAIN AT WEBB'S

it was decided their time should be spent gaining knowledge of current events, books, etc. Hence a study club was born and it was called the Tuesday Club. This club is active today and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1956.

Another group called the Birthday Club also a social organization later became the A.L.D. Club and also a study club. This club is active today. Both these clubs have a limited membership.

In the year 1915, the Tuesday Club organized the Women's Club in order to open the membership to all Rolfe women who would be interested in doing things for the betterment of their community; and to work with the state and general federation of women's clubs in their projects. This club was highly successful with a member-

THE LATEST IN FARM EQUIPMENT

ship of over 200. It sponsored lyceum courses during the winter months and chautauqua during the summer, was responsible for organizing a town band and many more worthwhile projects.

Fraternal organizations include the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star Chapter #79, I.O.O.F. and Rebecca Lodge.

Other organizations include the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, V.F.W. Auxiliary, and Amvets.

A THRESHING RUN IN 1902

OPERA HOUSE BLOCK IN 1911

Rolfe, 1963

As times have changed, so Rolfe in the past one hundred years has changed. Rolfe 1963 is a far-cry from Rolfe 1863. For the benefit of future generations the following description of Rolfe as it is in our centennial year 1963 is here-by related. Although railroads are no longer the main artery of transportation, Rolfe is still situated at the junction of the two railroads which was the inducement in the 1880's to move the town from its original location five miles northeast of its present site.

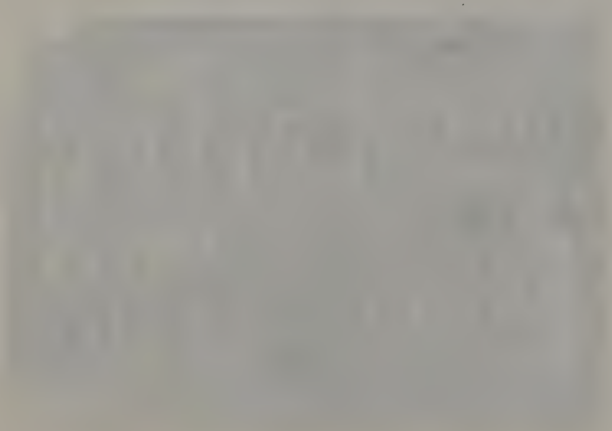
Rolfe is fortunate that the town's population is composed of several nationalities with no one group predominating. This we believe makes our town a good cross-section and example of true American citizenry. A reputation of square-dealing by the merchants, as well as being a community where decency has always prevailed and where one's spiritual life is free to seek its desired end, has made Rolfe an ideal place for future citizens to be moulded.

The chief industry in this area has always been, and probably always will be, the production of food. Our community is situated in one of the most fertile agricultural areas of the world.

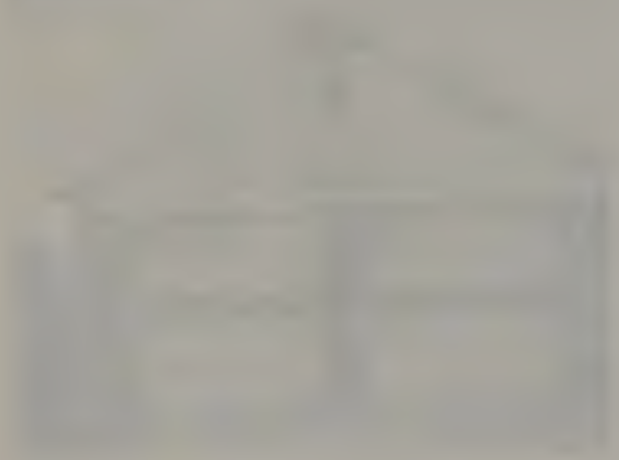
As many businesses in Rolfe 1863 are now obsolete, many of our present businesses will no doubt be just as obsolete in the year 2063. The businesses of one hundred years ago satisfied the desires and wants of the citizenry of that period, and the businesses of today do a good job of satisfying our present day needs. During the past century Rolfe has had many two-generation businesses and there have also been some three generation businesses, one of which is the Grant Lumber Yard, now operated and owned by F. E. Grant. The other known three-generation businesses were Webb Drug and Hauck General Merchandise.

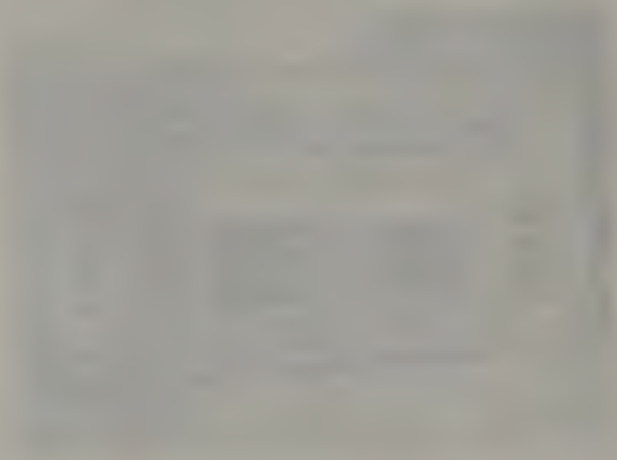
The following professional people and businesses are located in our town as of our centennial year 1963:

C. J. White, semi-retired Jeweler & Optometrist ("Dean of Rolfe Businessmen")
F. Fuller-White, M.D.
E. O. Loxterkamp, M.D.
T. S. Clark, D.O.
R. B. Ranney, D.D.S.
J E. Hynds, D.D.S.
L. W. Feldman, D.V.M.
J H. Brinkman, Attorney-at-law
F. M. Hudson, Attorney-at-law
Rickard Hardware, Plumbing & Heating
Wold Hardware & Metalwork
Duff's Produce & Appliance
The Rolfe Arrow (Emma Swan, Publisher)
Rolfe Food Locker (Bielefeldt)
Wood's Super Valu
Freeman's Market
Olney Food Market
Rolfe Variety (McAninch)
Calligan Sundries
Firkins Supply
Rolfe Dry Goods (Phillips)
Mann Barber Shop
Krischel Barber Shop
Watts Barber Shop
Turley Electric
Beuchle TV Repair
Harris Plumbing & Heating
Loss Refrigeration Service
Brinkman Auto Co.
Robinson Implement
H. & W. Garage
Weiland Repair
Hanson Repair & Heavy Machinery Contractor
Allbee Blacksmith & Repair
Weishaar Blacksmith & Repair
Holecek Blacksmith & Repair
Rolfe State Bank
Rolfe Cafe (Jarvis)
Sunnybrook Drive-Inn (Lehnus)
Dari-ette (Loss)
Farmers Cooperative Elevator



Rolfe Coin Laundry & Dry Cleaning (Robinson
Ritz Theater (Obrecht)
Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.
Iowa State Liquor Store
G. Fred Smith, Real Estate & Insurance
A. V. Graeber, Real Estate & Insurance
R. D. Dixon, Real Estate & Insurance
Luther Thompson, Real Estate
N. A. (Jim) Wilson, Farm Management, Real Estate & Insurance
Lloyd Cox, Insurance & Daily Paper Transport
Kenneth Pederson, Contract Carrier for Des Moines Register
Young's Standard Service
Dick's Phillips 66
Taylor Oil Co.
Garth Sroufe, Standard Tank Serviceman
Paul Biederman, Phillips 66 Tank Serviceman
Helmer Kaiser, Farm Service Tank Serviceman
Ogden Recreation Parlor
Midway Tavern
F. E. Grant Lumber Yard
Long Bros., Building Contractors
E. J. Aden, Building Contractor
H. J. Nielsen, Building Contractor
John Tiernan, Building Contratcor
Elmer Tubbs, Building Contractor
Beckord Hatchery
Lehman Produce
Streit Funeral Home
Dorothy's Beauty Shop
Rolfe Monument Works (McInt.re)
Earl Johnson, Painter & Interior Decorator
Keith Rickard, Plumbing & Heating Sales Representative
James Hulgan, Plumbing & Heating Sales Representative
Fay Wax, Seed Corn Salesman
Earl Young, Livestock Feed Salesman
Russell Winkleblack, Livestock Feed Salesman
Jerry Lopour, Watkins Products Representative
Mrs. Inez Wilcox, Stanley Products Representative
Central Iowa Telephone Co.
Dennis Leadley, Electrolux Representative
Wilcox Stockyards
Mrs. Agnes Reckard, Piano Instructor
Mrs. Gary Wolfe, Piano Instructor
Mrs. F. M. Hudson, Piano Instructor
Thoren Bros., General Trucking
Leslie DeWolf, General Trucking
Donald Hood, Livestock Transport





John Porter, Long Distance Hauling
Elmer Leadley, Heavy Machinery Transport
Gordon McHaffey, Soft Water & Limestone Delivery
Floyd MacVey, Trucking & Dirt & Gravel Contractor
George Diederich, General Trucking & Corn Shelling
Carl Hansen, Corn Shelling
Gene Cornwell, Portable Feed Grinding Service

The following churches fulfill the spiritual needs of Christians in this area: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, United Presbyterian Church, St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church and First Methodist Church. Here again we feel that because none of our churches is predominant our community provides a desired atmosphere of neighborliness and tolerance.

Education of our youth has alaways been of vital concern to the residents of Rolfe. The history of the Rolfe Community School is covered elsewhere in this publication, but we would like to stress the fact that a very high percentage of our high school graduates are instilled with a desire to further their education and many of them now hold positions of importance in many parts of the world.

Our town has one of the finest libraries to be found in a community of this size. Mrs. Grant Pollock was one of the pioneer librarians and much credit should be given her for helping to establish our public library. In later years, Mrs. O. B. Fuller, Jr., served as librarian and board member. Besides the present board members (Mrs. William Brinkman, Miss Edna Marcum, Dr. R. B. Ranney, Mrs. Wallace Taylor and Mrs. Wm. Spencer), J. T. Grant, Mrs. J. H. Brinkman, Mrs. Luther Thompson, and Mrs. H. C. Wiegman were some of those who served faithfully to give Rolfe this cultural atmosphere. Mrs. Flossie DeVaul is the present librarian assisted by Mrs. Deane Gunderson.

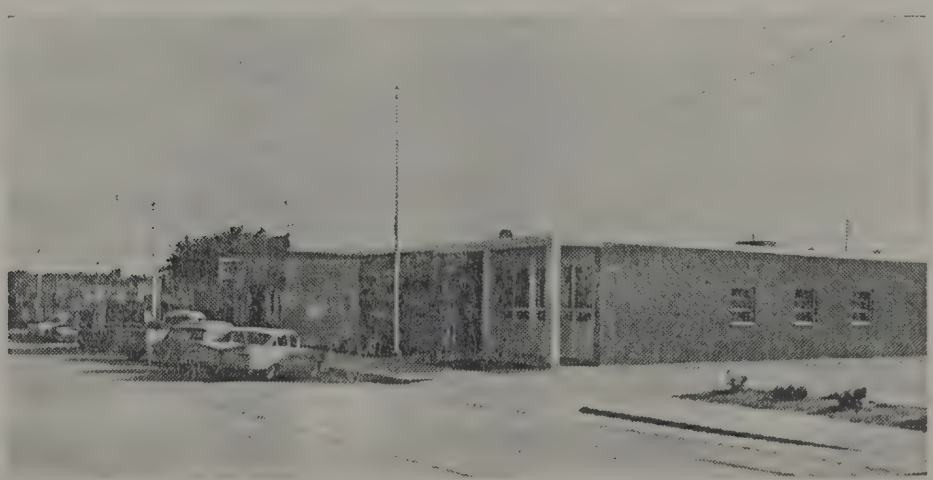
Rolfe also boasts a municipal water-softening

plant and an up-to-date, well-trained volunteer fire department with two modern fire trucks and resuscitating equipment. Governing the affairs of our town at the present time are: Mayor Loell Streit and Councilmen Harold Calligan, John Loss, Paul Biederman, Ray Wolfe and Arnold Wold. R. D. VanNostrand is the city treasurer and J. H. Brinkman is city clerk.

The city park and picnic area, located south of the business district, provides recreational facilities for the residents of this area and is under the supervision of a park board consisting of L. R. Davidson, Luther Thompson, and J. H. Brinkman. A properly supervised summer recreational program and winter skating facilities are maintained for the youth of the community. Rolfe can be justifiably proud of its golf course, for it is one of the sportiest and most beautiful nine-hole courses in northwest Iowa.

The Clinton-Garfield Cemetery which is known for its beauty is composed of the first section and the new memorial section. F. E. Grant, LeRoy Nelson and Lawrence Kennedy comprise the present three-member cemetery board.

A new United States Post Office building was dedicated in 1962. Donald J. Spencer is the



present postmaster and Mrs. Ferne Patterson and Mrs. Ann Harland are the present postal clerks. Two rural mail routes serve the surrounding area, Guy Eccles, Jr., and Lawrence Kennedy being the present rural carriers, and Jerry Robinson fills the position of city mail carrier.

A television translator tower, promoted by the Greater Rolfe Club and authorized by the Federal Communications Commission, makes it possible for residents of our community as well as those living a considerable distance west and north of Rolfe to receive ABC network programs on UHF Channel 72.

Besides the local church youth organizations, the Scouting program is very active in the community with both Boy and Girl Scout Troops, an Explorer Troop, and Cub and Brownie Scouts. The business and professional people make up the membership of the Greater Rolfe Club, the local commercial club. The Rolfe Lions Club is a very active service club, sponsoring or assisting in practically every worthwhile community project. Local organizations connected with the military are American Legion and Auxiliary, V.F.W. and Auxiliary, and Amvets. Fraternal organizations include the Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, I.O.O.F. and Rebekahs. Besides the women's church organizations, there are three federated clubs (Tuesday Club, A.L.D. and Rolfe Progressive Club), chapters of two national philanthropic societies (P.E.O. and T.T.T.) as well as many social groups.

One can't help but have a nostalgic feeling when reading the history of the beginning of our town. However, we are sure none of us would care to give up our modern conveniences and we are equally as sure that our predecessors would not want us to do so.

This is our town as it is in 1963—at the close of the first one hundred years. It is our sincere hope that the citizens of this community in the year 2063 will be half as proud of the heritage we pass on to them as we are of the heritage given to us.

Rolfe's Newspapers

The Pocahontas Times was established as the first permanent newspaper in the county after three previous unsuccessful ventures in that industry. Its predecessors were the Pocahontas Journal, The Cedarville Herald and the Pocahontas Times during the period of its publication by M. D. Skinner.

The Pocahontas Journal was established by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce in the year 1869 when the former was serving as auditor, clerk of the court and county judge, and the latter as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors, both of whom, after December 1st, that year, were residents of old Rolfe.

The first issue of this paper was printed on Tuesday, June 15, 1869, and the second one on Friday, July 25th following, on the press of B. F. Gue at Fort Dodge. After the lapse of two years, or in July, 1871, W. D. McEwen relinquished his editorial interest in this paper to Thomas L. MacVey and its weekly publication was continued by Messrs. Bruce and MacVey until February 1, 1872.

About this date the legislature repealed the law providing for the publication of the general laws in each county and this left them under the necessity of publishing the paper at a pecuniary loss or of abandoning the enterprise. The paper was therefore discontinued. After its establishment in 1869 it was made the official paper of the county and for advertising the sale of the school lands and printing the proceedings of the board of supervisors and delinquent tax list that year received $237. In 1870-71 in addition to the other public printing, it published the general laws of the 13th (1870) General Assembly.

The Cedarville Herald and first Pocahontas Times were the other two unsuccessful ventures in county newspapering.

Flickinger in his "Early History of Iowa and Pioneer History of Pocahontas County" stated, "It is a matter for regret that no files of the Pocahontas Journal, Cedarville Herald and of the Pocahontas Times during the period of its first venture, have been preserved."

However, contradictory to the statement, this writer has in possession an issue of the Pocahontas Journal dated October 4, 1871, Rolfe, Iowa.

The Pocahontas Times, established at old Rolfe by W. D. McEwen as editor and proprietor, and of which Volume 1, Number 1, was issued Thursday, April 6, 1876, is the oldest newspaper in Pocahontas County that has been preserved and its publication continued as late as 1904 at least. This paper was first issued as a five column weekly, containing four pages 12½ by 19½ inches.

The first issue contained the proceedings of the board of supervisors at their April meeting (1876) and the professional cards of several Fonda firms as well as the following from Rolfe: Rev. Walter L. Lyons, Presbyterian, services in the brick school house at old Rolfe every other Sunday at 11 o'clock a.m.; Rev. Wm. McCready, M.E., alternate Sundays same place at 10:30 a.m.; W. D. McEwen, attorney at law; Alexander Younke, attorney; W. D. McEwen & Co., dry goods and groceries; A. O. Garlock, real estate and tax paying agency.

On June 15, 1876, when the editor went to the Centennial in Philadelphia as an appointed delegate from Pocahontas county, the office was

left in the hands of A. O. Garlock and Fred J. Ervin. After the issue of October 10, 1876, the place of publication was changed from old Rolfe to Pocahontas Center.

The reporter, a local Republican paper, established by E. W. Duke in 1882, was the pioneer newspaper of Rolfe, and until the establishment of the Reveille in 1888, was the only one published in the town. On October 15, 1886, M. W. and P. O. Coffin became its editors and proprietors, and its publication was discontinued May 8, 1890, when the outfit was purchased by James J. Bruce and added to the Reveille equipment.

The Reveille, a Republican paper, was established by James J. Bruce and Frank H. Plumb, July 12, 1888, and they continued as co-editors and proprietors until May 1, 1890, when the latter sold his interest to the former. On October 1, 1890, J. H. Lighter became a half owner with J. J. Bruce and this partnership continued until January 1, 1894, when Marion Bruce, who had been a workman in the office from the time it was founded, bought his father's interest in it. On September 1, 1895, A. R. Thornton bought the half interest of J. H. Lighter, and the partnership of Bruce and Thornton continued until August 4, 1900, when A. R. Thronton became the sole owner of the paper and then sold a half interest in it to Lottie Thornton, his wife.

The Argus, a Democratic paper, was established February 3, 1891, by Lawrence J. Anderson, as a nine column folio. In November, 1892, J. A. Faith bought it, but after four months left it in the hands of the mortgagees—M. Crahan, C. P. Leithead, V. Hauck and A. B. Symes. M. Crahan then purchased the outfit and the paper was managed by Wm. Porter until April, 1894, when it was purchased by A. L. Schultz, who continued as its editor and proprietor until December 1, 1898, when its further publication was discontinued. The outfit was sold to S. E. Sage of Sibley, the subscription list to J. H. Lighter.

The Rolfe Tribune, a Republican paper, was established March 1, 1898, by Joseph Henry Lighter. It was published twice a week. The Tribune merged in Rolfe Reveille, August 10, 1903.

Number 1, Volume 1 of "The Arrow" was issued Wednesday, May 11, 1910, under the ownership of The Bruce Printing Company with Robert Bruce the managing editor. In 1913 it was published every Thursday by The Bruce Printing Company with Marion Bruce, editor. "The Arrow" consolidated with "The Reveille" February 12, 1914.

With the issue of November 20, 1919, the local paper became known as "The Rolfe Arrow" with Marion Bruce still the editor. As of September 23, 1937, ownership was transferred from Marion Bruce to Henry L. Sawyer.

On July 1, 1939, Michael R. Soth became owner of the plant and effective August 1, 1947, a partnership was formed by Mr. Soth and Robert Swan for the operation of the newspaper with each owning a one-half interest.

On September 1, 1950, Robert Swan became sole owner of "The Rolfe Arrow." And since his demise his wife, Emma C. Swan, has owned and operated the plant with the help of her son, George E. Swan, and others.

The following is reprinted from R. E. Flickinger's "Pioneer History of Pocahontas County":

The editors of the newspapers established in this county met in the Record office at Pocahontas, November 24, 1902, and effected the organization of the Pocahontas County Newspaper Association by the election of the following officers: L. W. Chandler, Fonda, president; W. S. Clark, Pocahontas, vice-president; D. O. Blake, Pocahontas, secretary; and A. R. Thornton, Rolfe, treasurer. The objects of this association are to afford an opportunity for better acquaintance on their part, and, by the friendly discussion of matters that are of common interest, to secure the best system in the management of their respective establishments. At a meeting held in January 1903, the temporary organization was made permanent.

The newspapers, their date of establishment, editors and proprietors, that were in this county at the time this association was organized were as follows:

THE FONDA TIMES, (1876), the Fonda Publishing & Printing Co., proprietors since January 10, 1901; L. W. Chandler, editor.

THE POCAHONTAS RECORD, (1884), by D. O. Blake.

THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY SUN, (1885), published at Laurens by R. C. Garver; U. S. Vance since December 1903.

THE ROLFE REVEILLE, (1888), by A. R. & Lottie Thornton. (By J. H. Lighter since August 13, 1903.)

THE GILMORE CITY GLOBE, (1892), by H. C. Marmon.

THE HAVELOCK ITEM, (1893), by Frank Jarvis, and by G. E. & F. S. McCaffree in 1903.

THE ROLFE TWICE A WEEK TRIBUNE, (1898-1903), by J. H. Lighter, (merged in Rolfe Reveille, August 10, 1903.)

THE POCAHONTAS HERALD, (1899), by A. L. Shultz.

THE PLOVER REVIEW, (1900), by G. H. Liddell.

THE POCAHONTAS DEMOCRAT, (1901), the Pocahontas Publishing Co., proprietors; W. S. Clark, editor.

THE PALMER PRESS, (1903), by L. O. Hull.

"Our County Schools," a monthly paper published by the county superintendent, is printed at Charles City.

The newspaper press has become one of the seven wonders of the modern world. As a controlling factor in society it exerts an influence

like that of the parent, teacher and pastor. In one view the newspaper reflects the character of its editor, revealing his thoughts, feelings and views on public questions; but in another sense it is a combination of labor, money, intelligence and principles, and has distinct objects before it. It is worthy of note that those who conduct them are learning the dignity of their calling and are making strenuous efforts to place their papers where they belong—among the best agencies that are helping to develop a Christian civilization.

The wide awake, local paper carries to the family circle information concerning local affairs that is of interest to every citizen in that locality. Its record of progress is an aid to popular education and an incitement to further enterprise too valuable to be lightly esteemed. It publishes the local news with a fullness of detail that invests it with an interest unknown to the average daily, while its brief paragraphs, and breezy columns of personals have a charm peculiarly their own. So long as sociability, curiosity and sympathy distinguish human character it will continue to hold its oldtime place in the esteem of the community, while it serves as a faithful chronicler of passing events. One of the treasures of our daily life, like the water we so freely drink and the pure life giving air,

"Is the newspaper, with its welcome message
To matured age and youth,
With pure bright thoughts from many minds,
And many a pleasant truth,
Breaking like a ray of sunshine,
And almost magic charm,
The monotony of the farm."

Such is the nature of the tie that is developed between the good natured and long-time editor and his readers, that he thrives with their prosperity, rejoices in their mirth and sympathizes in their sorrow.

All the newspapers in this community, except the Fonda Times, have been established during the last two decades and they have been greatly improved during the last ten years by the use of improved presses and other printing utilities. When it is manifest that the local paper is putting forth an honest and efficient endeavor to promote the best interests of the community, as an executor and promoter of good morals, every citizen of that locality should naturally feel that he has a certain degree of interest in its prosperity, and do all he can to sustain it and increase its usefulness; for increased support always means enlargement of facilities and corresponding improvement of the paper.

(Submitted by Emma C. Swan)

Rolfe's Doctors and Dentists

The first resident physician and surgeon in Old Rolfe left in 1876. Dr. J. C. Maxwell was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Carey who practiced in Old Rolfe in 1878 and 79.

In 1881 W. W. Beam, M.D., of Tama County located at the Hotel De Tedford in Old Rolfe in advance of the new railway, in order that he might move as a pioneer to the new railroad town in the northeast part of the county.

The following remarks are excerpts from the reading of the minutes in the Pocahontas County Medical Society from August of 1897 until 1963.

A meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the medical association for the county of Pocahontas on August 23, 1897. The following physicians of this area were present: Dr. C. L. Whitney of Fonda; Dr. D. H. Barthel of Pocahontas; Dr. W. W. Beam of Rolfe; Dr. J. D. Wallace of Plover; Dr. Chas. E. Leithead of Rolfe; Dr. D. W. Edgar of Fonda; Dr. A. L. Belt of Gilmore City; Dr. J. W. Higgens of Laurens; and Dr. W. F. Wasom of Gilmore City.

It was moved and seconded that the Pocahontas District Medical Association was to be the name decided upon for the association of the above named physicians. At that time Dr. W. W. Beam of Rolfe was elected the first president of the Pocahontas District Medical Association. Whitney, Barthel, and Wallace were other officers elected. The president appointed a committee for the organization of the constitution and by-laws for this medical association. The secretary was instructed to write other physicians in the area in good professional standing to attend the next regular meeting to be held in Pocahontas in September of 1897.

At a regular meeting in Pocahontas in 1899, May of that year, three new members were admitted to this society: Dr. E. W. Wilson of Rolfe; Dr. J. W. McQuarry of Pioneer; Dr. J. H. Hovenden of Laurens. The society was now beginning to formulate its strength, with new members affiliated with it to the extent that they would have three meetings a year. It is interesting to note at one meeting in November 1899 it was unanimously approved by all members to hold the next meeting at the Pocahontas County Courthouse by the light of the 1st full moon in January 1900. Travel as it was in that day, it is not difficult to understand why the doctors upon returning to their individual towns would give their horses the benefits of the light of the moon.

It was also at this time that the society was to assume the name of Pocahontas County Medical Society which has continued to the present day.

At Laurens in May of 1900 two new members were brought into the Society—Dr. W. M. Shipley of Ottosen and Dr. H. H. Thornton of Pocahontas.

Doctor W. W. Beam. Birth June 26, 1858; death April 11, 1950. First president of Pocahontas County Medical Society.

In 1903 while Dr. A. L. Belt was president, two new members were admitted to this Society—Dr. L. W. McManus of Gilmore City and Dr. B. A. Smillie of Palmer.

In July of 1904 at Eagle Grove, Iowa, a joint meeting of Pocahontas, Humboldt, and Wright Counties met in the afternoon by order of Dr. O'Toole of Eagle Grove. Three counties had now joined together to pool their medical knowledge for the care of people in their area. Dr. Evans of Fort Dodge read a paper on the treatment of hemorrhoids. Dr. Fairchild of Des Moines read a paper on the indications for operations and treatment of the floating kidney. Dr. McManus gave a talk on the periodic headaches. Application for membership was made by Dr. M. F. Patterson of Fonda, transferring from the Polk County Society in October of 1904, where he established his practice at Fonda.

In March of 1905, at a meeting held in Fonda, four new members were admitted to the Society —Drs. C. R. Whitney of Fonda, T. J. Dower of Fonda, W. C. Porath of Varina and D. W. Edgar of Fonda.

In June of 1907, the Pocahontas County Medical Society held its meeting in the parlors of the Clifford Hotel in Rolfe, the Society being called to order then by its president, Dr. Barthel. Records indicate that a number of excellent papers were presented through the afternoon, after which time the meeting was adjourned for a supper at the Clifford Hotel for all present. The evening session was held in the Presbyterian Church. An interesting program was rendered to an appreciative audience. Besides the musical numbers of the Presbyterian choir, which music was very creditably rendered, Rev. McEwen of Rolfe read a paper entitled "The Ideal Physician." Dr. A. L. Belt read a paper entitled "The Physician and the Public," and Dr. E. W. Wilson read one entitled "Heredity and Environment." Certainly by now the Society had become a figure in its own entity, practicing medicine in the community and meeting on occasions for dissemination of knowledge between physician as well as clergy.

At the Pocahontas County courthouse in Pocahontas in November of 1907, the Society held its next meeting, at which time the election of officers for the forthcoming year was held. Dr. Beam was elected president for the Society in the year 1908; Dr. A. L. Belt, vice-president; Dr. B. A. Smillie, secretary-treasurer. Dr. Beam took the chair and thanked the Society for the courtesy of electing him president for 1908.

Dr. W. W. Beam came to Rolfe in 1881 to practice medicine. The son of Dr. and Mrs. William Beam, he was born June 26, 1858 in Jones County, Iowa. He attended Linn County rural schools, Western High School and Cornell College at Mount Vernon. From 1873 to 1879 he was a high school teacher in Tama County, and also studied medicine with his father. He came to Old Rolfe May 31, 1881, and received his first patient the following day. Later he returned to the University of Iowa Medical School and was graduated in 1886. The same year he married Emma Brown, who later died. In 1906 he married Addie Malcolm who survived him and died in 1962.

At this meeting two new members were also admitted to the Society—Dr. Fletcher and Dr. J. Van Meter of Laurens.

In November of 1908 at a meeting held at the courthouse in Pocahontas, Dr. R. E. Herrick of Gilmore City was received as a member of the Society.

In May of 1909, Dr. J. E. Bridgeman presented credentials from Hardin County Medical Society and was elected to membership. Also, Dr. S. J. Townsend presented credentials from Salt Lake City Medical Association in affiliation with the A.M.A., and was chosen a member residing and practicing in Gilmore City.

In April of 1913, at a meeting held in Pocahontas, Dr. A. W. Patterson was accepted as a full-fledged member of the Society. At that time Dr. Florence Fuller-White of Rolfe was elected to membership in the Society. Dr. White has continued to extend her services from that early age until the present day in the community of Rolfe.

Dr. Kipler of Palmer was admitted to full membership in June of 1915 at a meeting held at Fonda. At the same meeting, Dr. Maloney's application for membership was received and accepted.

In July of 1915, at a meeting held at Rolfe, at which time Dr. W. W. Beam was president of the Society, he received the application of membership from Dr. G. A. Everson of Plover who was then elected to full membership.

At Palmer, Iowa, in November of 1916 an application for and acceptance into the Society was received by Dr. E. L. Hollis.

Under the presidency of Dr. W. W. Beam in March of 1917, a Medical Reserve Corps was appointed for the purposes of war efforts. The following members were accepted for that committee: Doctors E. W. Wilson, C. R. Whitney, J. C. Riordan, S. J. Townsend and F. C. Nilssen.

Dr. D. O. Barthel of Pocahontas had served the people of this community well. In July of 1917 a Resolution of Respect was in order, namely:

"Whereas in His infinite wisdom it has pleased the Almighty to take from among us our friend and associate, Dr. D. H. Barthel, and that in his death we and the community have lost a true friend and colleague.

Be it therefore RESOLVED that we, the Pocahontas County Medical Society extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family in their hour of sorrow and

Be it further RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the bereaved family and a copy spread upon the records of the Society."

At Gilmore City in April 1918, application for membership to the Society was received and acceptance bestowed to Dr. C. E. Stewart.

At the home of Dr. W. W. Beam, in Rolfe in June 1919, a meeting was held at which time Capt. E. W. Wilson read a paper on "Some Physiological Considerations of the Heart," and Lieutenant E. L. Hollis, on "Organic Diseases of the Heart." The two papers were discussed together, and the freedom of discussion showed that these valuable papers had interest to all. Mrs| Beam, in a very delightful, appetizing, and satisfying manner, served a delicious six o'clock dinner.

At Laurens, in July 1919, the application for membership of Dr. J. W. Starr of Pocahontas was received and accepted by the Society. A general discussion of hard-surface roads was then indulged in by the Society, and, on motion, that the Society appoint a committee to draft a resolution in favor of hard-surface roads, have it published and present a copy to the Board of Supervisors. This motion was carried. A discussion of holding meetings twice a month instead of once a month was opened before the Society, and while no motion was made, this met with the approval of all present and was decided to hold the next meeting at Plover in July of 1919. It was at this time that meetings were by the calender in place of the "light of the full moon."

Visitors at this Plover meeting were Dr. Keeney and Dr. Beatty of Mallard. Dr. Campbell of Fargo, North Dakota, also attended. At this meeting a petition was sent to the Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County. The petition asked that the Supervisors submit to the voters of the county for their decision at the polls, in the near future the question as to whether the county desires hard-surface roads. The Society had hereby gone on record as willing to associate itself with the other organizations of the county for the purpose of promoting this hard-surface work.

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Society was held at Gilmore City in August 1919. Visiting doctor at that meeting was Dr. Shipley of Ottosen.

In September of 1919, at a meeting held in Fonda, Dr. C. L. Jone's application for membership was accepted and approved. He became a member of the Society practicing at Gilmore City.

With Dr. Townsend as president, the Society met in November of 1919 in Pocahontas. Visitors at that meeting were Dr. Parker, Dr. Beeh, Dr. Chase, Dr. Field, the last three of which were from Fort Dodge. Also present as visitors were Dr. Keeney and Dr. Beatty of Mallard, Dr. Campbell and Dr. Kelley of Marathon, and Dr. Bridge of Albert City. Dr. S. B. Chase of Fort Dodge gave an address pertaining to the ear, nose, and throat, which was his specialty. Dr. C. L. Jones read a paper on the "Medical Officer in France," giving a close-up and very interesting word picture of his duties as a member of the Medical Corps of the A.E.F. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Parker were elected to membership of the Society at this meeting.

At a regular meeting held in Laurens in Novmber of 1920, Dr. Loving of Laurens made application to and was accepted to this Society for membership.

In Rolfe, at the office of Dr. Hollis of Rolfe, the meeting of May 1921 was held. Visitors at this meeting were Dr. O. C. Morrison and Dr. McConkey of Carroll, Iowa; Dr. Beeh of Fort Dodge, Dr. Kelly of Marathon. Dr. Beeh read a paper on "The Etiology of Right-sided Abdominal Pain." Dr. Hovenden gave the Society a cordial invitation to use the lawn of his home for a picnic at the time of the July meeting in Laurens.

In May of 1921, the Society held its regular session at Pocahontas. Visitors for the meeting were Dr. Rust, of Webb; Dr. Kelly of Marathon; Dr. Studebaker of Fort Dodge; Dr. Bridge of Albert City. Dr. Studebaker gave a paper on "The First Six Inches of the Duodenum," illustrating his paper with drawings. Among other things, he brought out the importance of inflammations of the gall bladder which would produce adhesions and consequent angulations of the duodenum. This was a very interesting and instructive

paper and was discussed by those present. Dr. E. W. Wilson of Rolfe was absent at this meeting because of sickness, so a facetious resolution was drawn up to E. W. Wilson, M.D., Rolfe, Iowa:

"Whereas at the regular meeting of the Pocahontas County Medical Society, at Palmer, whereas you, our brother physician, esteemed member of our Society, have been incapacitated by illness for sometime:

Resolved that we hereby wish to extend to you and your family our sympathy and regret that you have been unable to meet with us, and express the hope that, in the near future you will again be able to take your important part as a member of our county Society. Committee: W. W. Beam, W. G. Porath, B. A. Smillie.

In July of 1921, as anticipated, members of the Pocahontas County Medical Society, together with their families, had a picnic on the lawn of Dr. Hovenden's home, where everyone was turned loose to have a good time.

Dr. Brown of Fort Dodge read an interesting paper on "Pelvic Infections", emphasizing the conservative treatment. This paper brought out considerable discussion from the doctors present and was very much appreciated by all. We were then served with more frolic and fun, followed by more eats, after which the crowd began to disperse.

The Pocahontas County Medical Society had now been in existence for twenty-six years. It was in 1923 that it was to lose its first active member from the beginning of its inauguration. Minutes of the meeting held in April of 1923 at Pocahontas, at which time Dr. Patterson was president, indicated that flowers and a resoluion of respect were sent to the wife of Dr. C. R. Whitney of Fonda.

To avoid the difficult traveling conditions of the winter months it was also decided at this meeting that starting May 1st the next meeting would be held at Gilmore City; May 15th at Rolfe; June 1st at Plover; June 19th at Fonda; July 3rd at Laurens; July 17th at Varina; August 7th at Pocahontas; August 21st at Havelock and September 4th at Pocahontas.

At a meeting in July of 1923, held in Laurens, Dr. W. A. Bailey was accepted as a member of the Society.

At the October meeting, held in Pocahontas in 1923, Dr. Randall of Iowa City gave an illustrated lecture on "Pre-Natal Care and Pelvic Measurements and Puerperal Infections". Dr. Randall being on the staff at the University Hospitals at Iowa City, it is interesting to note that he would travel so far to give a lecture on a topic which was certainly appropriate for that age.

In June of 1924, the Society met in regular session at the court house at Pocahontas, at which time Dr. Studebaker from Fort Dodge read a very interesting paper on "Abdominal Emergencies, Diagnosis and Treatment". This paper was illustrated by the lantern and slides and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Dr. Studebaker may well be remembered by many of this community for surgery that he would perform on the kitchen table; for there are a number of people in the area that may have recollections of his traveling by train to Rolfe and assisted by Dr. Beam had surgical conditions repaired in the home.

It was in 1924 that the affiliation with the Fort Dodge physicians became more pronounced. In June, Dr. Studebaker was a visiting physician. In June at a subsequent meeting, Dr. Knowles of Fort Dodge gave an interesting talk on "Fractures of the Wrists". In July Dr. Sheldon and Dr. Shultz were visiting physicians. Dr. Shultz gave a paper on "The Differential Diagnosis of Common Skin Diseases".

At the courthouse in Pocahontas at a regular meeting in July, visiting physicians were Drs. Kelly, Evans, Ascher, Sheldon and Loeffler.

Visiting physicians in August at Pocahontas were Dr. Ascher and Dr. Evans of Fort Dodge. Dr. Evans read a very timely paper on "Extra Uterine Pregnancy".

In August of 1924, the Pocahontas County Medical Society met at the Rolfe Golf Course. Members present were Dr. Hollis, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Bagby, Dr. Parker, Dr. Riardon, Dr. Loving, Dr. Townsend and Dr. Kepler. Visiting physicians were Doctors Studebaker, Patterson, Sheldon, Akers, Scott, Knowles and Wyatt.

In September of 1924, visiting physicians were Drs. Evans and Kersten of Fort Dodge. Dr. Kersten read a paper on "Gastric Ulcer" which was a very excellent paper. In November of 1924 visiting physicians were Drs. Loss and Myers of Des Moines; Kustone of Jolly; Van Meter of Rockwell City and Kaufman and McQuarry of Lake City. Dr. Loss gave an interesting paper on the "Pylography of the Kidney."

In September of 1925, the following officers were elected: Dr. Everson of Rolfe was elected president; Dr. W. A. Bagley was elected secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Wilson vice-president.

In 1927 offices for the year were: Dr. A. P. Maloney of Fonda, president; Dr. Charles Jones of Gilmore City, vice-president; Dr. W. A. Bagley of Laurens, secretary-treasurer. Dr. Beam was elected chancellor for the Tenth District.

At a meeting in December of 1927 Dr. W. L. Biering of Des Moines spoke on the subpect "Pitfalls in Medicine". He discussed a number of rare and interesting conditions, among them some peculiar types of encephalitis. Dr. Biering was soon to take over as head of the State Department of Health, a position which he held until his death several years ago.

Excerpts of the minutes in April 1928 indicate that a resolution of respect was adopted following the death of Dr. W. A. Bagley.

There are no recorded minutes of the meetings

from May 21, 1929 to December 20, 1935. Why? Perhaps a crash in the market, with the ensuing depression years is the answer.

In December of 1935, elected officers for the year of 1936 were: President, Dr. Hunter; Vice-president, Dr. Everson; Secretary-treasurer, Dr. Riardon; Delegate, Dr. W. W. Beam of Rolfe. Active members to the Society at that time are listed as Doctors Hovenden, Hunter, Smillie, Kapler, Riardon, Maloney, Stewart, Peterson, Jones, Morton, Herrick, Everson, and Dr. Beam as life member. Petitions for membership by Dr. W. E. Gower of Pocahontas and Dr. Lester Lesterman of Rolfe were accepted.

At a subsequent meeting in March of 1936, resolutions of respect were passed for the late members of the Society; namely, Dr. Herrick, Dr. Riardon, and Dr. Townsend.

In April of 1936, Dr. T. G. Herrick of Gilmore City was received as a member in good standing from the Hardin County Medical Society.

In May of 1936, Dr. Gower read a paper on "Burns", which was freely discussed. The board of censors reported favorably on the application of Dr. Elmer E. Morton for membership.

Dr. B. A. Smillie, secretary, reports that at a meeting held in Pocahontas in October 1936, after an exceptional get together, he states: "It seems to your secretary that another such get-together affair might well be held later in the season. The more we mingle with one another the better we each discover that the other fellow is a pretty good sort after all. The human animal is most amenable on a full stomach."

In December of 1936, Dr. A. J. Callaghan of Pocahontas was accepted to membership.

At the September meeting in 1938, resolutions of respect were drafted for the families of Dr. C. E. Stewart and Dr. B. A. Smillie.

It was at this meeting that it was moved by Dr. Gower and seconded by Dr. Hovenden that a committee from the Society be appointed to investigate the question of a county hospital. President Heathman appointed Doctors Gower, Lesserman and Jones as the committee.

The roll of membership furnished to the State Medical Society for the year 1938 was as follows:

Rolfe—W. W. Beam, G. A. Everson, Lester Lesserman, G. B. Palmer, Florence White. Fonda—A. P. Maloney, A. W. Patterson. Gilmore City—T. G. Herrick, C. L. Jones. Laurens—J. H. Hovenden, James Jackman. Havelock—W. B. McTaggart. Palmer—E. E. Morton. Pocahontas—W. E. Gower, F. E. Heathman, W. E. Brinkman, A. J. Callaghan and C. C. Kepler.

In January of 1939, it was moved by Dr. Beam and seconded by Dr. Gower that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs. Hunter, wife of the deceased Dr. Hunter.

At Dr. Heathman's office in Pocahontas on May 16, 1940, Dr. Plyer's petition for transfer from Sac City was approved by the censor. Dr. Glesner of Fort Dodge gave a most interesting paper on a case of poliomyelities complicating pregnancy.

At the January meeting 1941, held in Havelock, Dr. R. E. Mauer's petition for membership was approved. Dr. W. P. Davey, of Emmetsburg, assisted by Dr. Brink of Ayrshire, gave an interesting illustrated lecture on "Management of Acute Infections of the Hand."

At the home of Dr. A. J. Callaghan, of Pocahontas, in March 1941, Dr. Jones of Gilmore City presiding, Dr. S. B. Chase of Fort Dodge spoke on the subject "Contra Indications for the Use of Sulfanilamides and like Drugs in Otitis Media."

At the home of Dr. Herrick in Gilmore City in September of 1941, President C. J. Jones presiding, the state-wide immunization program for diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough was discussed, and motion was carried that the Society sponsor this movement in the county.

In November of 1941, a resolution of respect was drawn for the family of Dr. A. P. Maloney.

With World War II in progress in January of 1942, the Society met at the home of Dr. L. Lesserman in Rolfe, President C. L. Jones presiding. A letter from the Woman's Field Army was read, and the names of Dr. Fuller-White, Mrs. Jessie Fae Schon, and Mrs. A. W. Patterson were approved as candidates for the position of captain in Pocahontas County. Dr. Walter Feasler, of Fort Dodge, presented an illustrated talk on "Bladder Malignancies."

In the V.F.W. Hall at Laurens in April of 1942, being entertained by Dr. Hovenden, members of the Dental Society were present as guests. The Dental Society was represented by Drs. ReHahn, Powers, Jones, Ranney, Minnick, Morton, and Denison. Dr. Hovenden, chief of Emergency Medical Service of this county greeted the group and introduced Mr. F. E. Van Alstine, head of Civil Defense for our county. Mr. Van Alstine discussed the planned procedure, explained and clarified the skeletal structure, which he helped the profession work into a smooth functioning medical unit.

Dr. Gower, medical head of the County Red Cross was next introduced. He notified the Society of the various first-aid training classes in existence at present. World War II was in process. Our young men may be at the fighting front, but still a job was to be done on the home front.

In May of 1942, at the home of Dr. G. A. Everson, with President C. L. Jones presiding, Dr. Everson discussed "First-Aid Teaching," and Dr. Hovenden reported the progress of the Medical Civilian Defense Council. Dr. J. H. Bruce of Fort Dodge addresseed the Society on "Complications of Pregnancy," stressing the prevention and treatment of toxemias.

In March of 1944, Dr. H. L. Pitluck of Laurens made application for membership in the Society and was formally accepted.

At the home of Dr. Brinkman of Pocahontas, in May of 1945, Dr. J. B. Thielen expressed his

desire of becoming a member of our Society. Moved by Dr. Jones, seconded by Dr. Brinkman, that Dr. Thielen, being recommended by Dr. Hovenden be elected to membership in the Society. Motion was carried and Dr. Thielen became a member.

A resolution of respect was drawn up for the death of Dr. J. H. Hovenden of Laurens in September of 1945.

At the home of Dr. C. L. Jones in December of 1945, a resolution of respect was drawn up for the late Dr. G. A. Everson of Rolfe.

Dr. Everson had been practicing medicine in Rolfe for 13 years and previously had practiced in Plover and Bradgate. At the time of his death from a heart attack, he was secretary of the Pocahontas County Medical Society. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. J. O. Wangberg of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Gustav A. Everson, son of John and Birgit Everson was born in Grant County, Wisconsin January 3, 1885. In 1888 he came with his parents to a farm north of Rolfe and moved to the town of Rolfe 15 years later. He was graduated from Rolfe High School and graduated from the University of Iowa School of Medicine in 1910. In June 1910 he was married to Miss Esther Severson of near Plover. His wife passed away in 1932.

In 1935 he married Mrs. Lucy Huley of Plover.

At the home of Dr. J. B. Thielen, in Laurens, in May of 1946, application for membership was filed by Dr. Rhodes and Dr. Anderson, both having recently been released from the army. Following release from services, Dr. Rhodes located in Pocahontas, having taken over the practice of Dr. Gower, and Dr. F. J. Anderson located in Rolfe.

At the home of Dr. J. M. Rhodes in Pocahontas in February of 1947, members present were Doctors F. E. Heathman, J. B. Thielen, W. F. Brinkman, F. J. Anderson, C. L. Jones, Harry L. Pitluck, John M. Rhodes. Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. L. J. O'Brien, of Fort Dodge. Dr. O'Brien gave a very interesting talk on "Gastric Ulcer and Carcinoma."

In March of 1948 Dr. Merle A. Kadel, formerly of Dickinson County, applied for membership to the Pocahontas County Society. Having located in Laurens he was accepted to the Society.

At a meeting held in the home of Dr. F. J. Anderson in Rolfe in June of 1949 application for membership was received and approved for Dr. E. O. Loxterkamp who had taken over the practice of Dr. Anderson. Dr. Loxterkamp was to begin practice in the office on June 15, 1949.

In September of 1949 application for membership by Dr. D. J. Greco was submitted and approved. Dr. Greco was to be affiliated with Dr. H. Pitluck of Laurens.

In April of 1950 a resolution of respect was drawn to the memory of Dr. W. W. Beam.

Having come to "Old Rolfe" in the year 1881, Dr. Beam had been physician to four generations of Pocahontas County folks. During the early years his calls were made with horse and buggy over the prairie, skirting the sloughs. Then came better roads and the automobile.

One of the last horse and buggy doctors has left us. His name is well known in Pocahontas County and surrounding counties. Dr. Beam lives in the hearts of those who knew and respected him.

In the home of Dr. E. O. Loxterkamp at Rolfe in July 1950, Dr. M. Donnelly of Des Moines, Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health gave a very interesting talk on the various phases of child health and maternal work. Visitors at this meeting were Dr. R. E. Almquist of Albert City; Pauline Bentz of Fonda, County Health Nurse; and Miss Orler of Spencer, District Health Nurse.

In December 1951 Dr. Fred L. Blair, a former member of this Society who left Fonda in 1942 for service in the Spartan Aircraft Co., and who later was associated with the Veterans Administration, located at Fonda, made re-application for membership and was accepted.

In March of 1952 a report of the closing of the Hovenden Memorial Hospital in Laurens was given. The effective date of closure being March 31, 1952.

At this time the Society had to draw another resolution of respect for Dr. Fred L. Blair, Sr.

In March 1954 Dr. L. J. O'Brien was guest speaker. He presented a series of slides showing fractures before and after, found to be of interest and help to all present.

At the following meeting Dr. W. Thatcher, as guest speaker, gave an interesting talk on female pathology with a film showing the technique of doing a Vaginal Hysterectomy.

Dr. James Gannon of Laurens in July 1954 submitted application for membership and was accepted. At this meeting Morris Bandy of Sioux City, representative of Blue Cross, Blue Shield, gave an excellent explanation of the insurance plan.

Dr. O. Babcock of Albert City, in February of 1955 requested transfer from the Buena Vista County Medical Society; his application being accepted and approved.

On December 16th after a lengthy illness word was received of the death of Dr. Frank Heathman of Pocahontas at Mercy Hospital, Fort Dodge. Funeral services were held at the Sacred Heart Church December 19th at which time the Society attended in a body. At the January meeting the resolution of respect was drawn to his memory.

For the past two years the September meeting had been held at the Babcock Resort on West Okoboji by invitation of Dr. Babcock whose family owned and operated these cottages. In September 1957 all members were present including two

guest speakers from Mayo Clinic, Dr. Einar Johnson who presented an excellent paper on "Orthopedic" and Dr. Jack Whismat who spoke on the care and management of "strokes." Everyone enjoyed the fish fry and the excellent fishing facilities afforded by our host Dr. O. L. Babcock.

At the following meeting in October 1957 a resolution of respect was drafted for Dr. Oliver L. Babcock, Albert City.

Dr. Babcock was fatally injured in an auto accident north of Des Moines.

It was at this time that Dr. Clyde Smith of Gilmore City made application and was approved for membership.

At the home of Dr. Clyde Smith, in February 1958, guests present were Dr. A. H. Olson, D.D.S. of Gilmore City; Dr. L. L. Long of Albert City and Morris Bandy of Sioux City.

Dr. Don Bock of Fort Dodge gave an interesting talk on "Anemia and Treatment." Dr. Chas. Baker of Fort Dodge stimulated a good deal of discussion on the topic of Salk Polio Vaccine.

In September 1958, by invitation from the Babcock Resort, the first annual memorial meeting for the late Dr. Babcock was held at the Babcock Resort at which time Dr. J. Whisnat gave an excellent paper on "The Treatment of Convulsive Disorders." Dr. Bianco gave an enlightning talk on "Automobile Safety." Both guest speakers are from the Mayo Clinic.

Subsequent Babcock Memorial meetings held at the Babcock Resort in 1960 Dr. Yoss of the Department of Neurology of the Mayo Clinic gave a lecture on "Norcoplexy." In September of 1961 Dr. Yoss gave a lecture on "Neck and Arm Pains." Then at the memorial meeting at the Babcock Resort in 1962 Dr. Whisnat of Mayo Clinic presented a paper on "A Clinical Discussion of Neurology."

The annual Memorial Meeting held at Babcok Resort is always looked forward to by members of the Society as well as the invited guests.

In September of 1961 the Society drew a resolution of respect for Dr. C. L. Jones.

Dr. Jones was born at Marshalltown, attended High School at Toledo and was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago in 1906. He practiced medicine at Shenandoah for six years, then came to Gilmore City in 1912 and has resided here ever since. He enlisted in the Army Medical Corps in 1917 during World War I and served overseas in France. At the time of his discharge he was a major.

Having succeeded Dr. Everson as secretary of the Society in 1945, Dr. Jones had faithfully held the position of secretary for 17 years.

He was a 50 year member of the State Society and in 1956 was honored by the community as he began his 51st year of practice.

At a meeting in 1962 Mrs. Ralph Vial of Havelock was approved as the School Health Nurse.

A special meeting was held at the home of Dr. J. M. Rhodes in August of 1962. This meeting was for the purpose of setting up a date for mass immunization against polio with the Sabin Oral Vaccine. Clinics were held at Rolfe, Pocahontas, Laurens, Fonda and Gilmore City. The 3rd dose of vaccine was given in April 1963.

A new era in the practice of medicine has been reached. The transition from horse and buggy to the auto has been made. Soon we hope to see the effect of eradicating the crippling effects of polio through the mass immunization with the Sabin Vaccine—a procedure whch had the full cooperation and approval of the Pocahontas County Medical Society.

(Contributed by Dr. E. O. Loxterkamp)

ROLFE DENTISTS

Dr. Frank King was apparently Rolfe's first dentist. Although exact dates are not available at this time, it is believed that he practiced here well before 1900. How long he practiced is not known.

Dr. Chas. Siefkin came to Rolfe soon after he graduated from dental school in 1900. He owned the first X-Ray machine in northwest Iowa, and did considerable x-ray work for surrounding physicians besides carrying on his practice of dentistry. He practiced in Rolfe until 1938, when ill health forced his retirement. He died in 1940 at the age of 64.

Dr. Young practiced here for only a short time in the late teens or early 20's, as nearly as can be determined.

Dr. Thomas D. Jones opened his dental office in Rolfe in 1916 above the old First National Bank building and practiced here, except for army service in World War I, until 1940. In 1930 or 31, he built the building now known as the Jones building, and practiced in that location until ill health forced his retirement in early 1940.

Dr. F. H. Molyneux came to Rolfe in 1939, taking over the office space above McAninch's store formerly occupied by Dr. Siefkin. Later he moved his office to his residence, southwest across the intersection from the Methodist Church. He maintained an office there until his death in 1958. During the last several years of his practice, he divided his time between his office in Rolfe and a position as dentist at the State Mental Health Institute in Cherokee.

Dr. R. B. Ranney came to Rolfe in September 1940, taking over Dr. Jone's practice. Worked on a commission basis for Dr. Jones until 1943, when he purchased Dr. Jones' equipment. Practiced in the Jones building until 1935, when he was called into the Army. Returning in 1955, he built his own office on the east end of the library lot, where he is presently located.

Dr. J. E. Hynds moved to Rolfe from Bradgate in 1944. Prior to practicing in Bradgate, he was located in Mason City for 30 years. Practiced general dentistry until 1961, but since then has limited his practice to denture work.

(Contributed by R. B. Ranney)

Railroads of Pocahontas County

In December, 1880, the surveyors of the Toledo and Northwestern Railroad (now C&NW Railway) entered the county, and on January 5, 1882, the grading for the railroad was completed, the track being laid to Rolfe Junction on January 10, 1882.

On January 16, the track was laid to Havelock and extended to Sioux Rapids during the month of March. The towns of Rubens, Havelock and Laurens were established along the route on the line of the railway, and at all stations fine two-story buildings were built as depots and completed in March of 1882. At Rubens, the railway erected a depot in January 1882, but after two years and at the request of the citizens, the depot was moved 3 miles east to its present location in Rolfe.

In January 1881, the Des Moines and Ft. Dodge Railway Company (now the M&STL Division of C&NW) expressed an intention to extend their line from Tara northward. At the time of the survey in May, it was decided the route should be extended from Tara to Ruthven, the track being laid in this county June 1, 1882, and the road was completed to Ruthven about July 1st. The company located stations at Gilmore City, Rolfe and Plover, and provided them with good depots.

The history of present Rolfe begins with the month of May 1881, when the survey of the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railroad crossed that of the Toledo and Northwestern. The right of way for the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railway was secured on August 23, 1881, and the right of way for the Toledo and Northwestern was given in April 1881. On September 8, 1881, Wm. D. McEwen a practical surveyor and county treasurer at that time, surveyed and platted the town of Rolfe at the junction of these two railroads. The effect of new railroads into the county and the establishment along them of five new and promising towns, Rolfe, Havelock, Laurens, Gilmore City and Plover, had the effect of attracting not merely public attention to this county, but a greatly increased immigration and the land values advanced thirty percent.

In later years, the Toledo and Northwestern became known as the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, while the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railway became the Minneapolis and S. Louis Railway until 1960, when it merged with the Chicago and Northwestern, and is now operated as the M&STL division of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway system.

(Contributed by Joe Accurso)
Station Agent C & N. W.

Rolfe Centennial School History

FOREWORD

The constitution under which Iowa entered the Union in 1846, declared: "The General Assembly shall encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral and agricultural improvement." It also required that every school district support a school at least three months each year. The right and duty of a state to maintain a general system of popular education and generously to support the same by a uniform levy of taxes, became thus clearly recognized and permanently established as the policy of the new state.

The school law of 1849, authorized the electors of any district to determine whether a school of higher grade should be maintained, and several of the more populous districts, availing themselves of this favorable enactment, very early began to classify and grade their schools.

During the fifties, the increase in population became very rapid and there was a corresponding development of school facilities. Rural communities and villages multiplied as if by magic, towns put on the air of cities, larger schoolhouses were demanded and supplied, and the need of graded and high schools became more keenly felt.

Previous to 1857, the money raised by general taxation proved insufficient to maintain the schools as long a period each year as the people desired, and the term of school was supplemented by subscriptions on the part of the parents or guardians of the pupils in attendance. An enlightened public sentiment at this time demanded that the schools be free and wholly supported by general taxation.

In 1858, the General Assembly of Iowa passed a comprehensive act, creating a State Board of Education, providing for the examination of teachers:

1. Each civil township forms a school district and it is divided into as many sub-districts as there are neighborhoods requiring separate schools. When it is fully settled, the township will ordinarily consist of nine sub-districts, each embracing the families residing on four sections of land. Each sub-district elects annually, on the second Monday in March, a sub-director. These sub-directors compose the Board of Directors for the township, and meet regularly on the third Monday in March and September. In rural independent sub-districts, the Board consists of three members, one of whom is elected annually to serve a term of three years. In the independent districts of cities of the first class, the Board

consists of seven members and in other independent city or incorporated town districts, of five members all of whom are elected for a term of three years. It is the duty of these Boards of Directors to select sites and make contracts for the erection of schoolhouses, to employ teachers, to determine the amount of tax necessary to be raised in the district in addition to the state and county apportionment and to maintain a free school in each sub-district, at least six months in each year.

2. Each county elects biennially a Superintendent of Public Schools, who examines teachers, issues and revokes certificates, visits schools, hears and determines cases appealed from the board of directors, has general oversight of the public schools of the county and makes an annual report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

3. A state Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected biennially by the people, who has general supervision of the county Superintendents and of the public schools of the state. He renders written opinions on the administration of the school laws, determines cases appealed from the decisions of County Superintendents, appoints Teacher's Institutes in the various counties, prepares and distributes school laws and blanks to the County Superintendents and makes a biennial report to the General Assembly.

4. The public schools are maintained chiefly by funds derived from the following sources: First, by the interest on the Permanent School Fund. This fund, now amounting to several millions of dollars, and constantly increasing, is derived from the sales of public lands donated by Congress, being section number sixteen in each township, the additional grant of 500,000 acres in the Act of December 28, 1846, admitting Iowa into the Union and from five per cent on the sale of government lands within the state.

Second, by a county tax of not less than one mill no more than two and one-half mills on the dollar, on the assessed value of all taxable property in each county.

Third, by a district tax—amount unlimited—on all the taxable property in each district township.

5. In addition to the provisions made for the support of common schools, the state appropriates fifty dollars annually to each county holding a teachers' institute.

These few paragraphs should provide some background information for the establishment of the earliest schools in this comumnity.

PART I: 1860-1900

In 1860, this county was organized as one school district, with Robert Struthers, Ora Harvey, and John A. James directors. Perry Nowlen was elected superintendent in 1859 but did not qualify, probably because there was no occasion for him to act. The report for 1860, when all the county was included in one district, listed 36 pupils in the county, thirteen of whom were enrolled with an average attendance of eleven.

The first school in Pocahontas County was the brick schoolhouse built at Old Rolfe in 1861. This early school district was called Highland, and this name occurs frequently in early county records. Miss Helen M. Harvey was the first teacher in the county. Her first term was taught in 1860 in the log house of William M. Hait at Old Rolfe. The following two years she taught the first term in the new brick school. She was succeeded by Mrs. Agnes Kinney, sister of Fred E. Metcott, in 1868.

Miss Harvey was the daughter of Ora and Eliza Harvey of Clinton Township. She had inherited a high degree of culture and refinement and had received a thorough academic education before coming to the frontier. Her work was highly appreciated both by her pupils and patrons. She died December 27, 1887.

Wm. D. McEwen taught in the brick school at Old Rolfe for three winter terms, from Jan. 1, 1866, to the spring of 1868. Of the other teachers who taught in the township during the 70s the names of the following have been preserved; Jane Hammon, Ann E. Slosson, Jane Hargrave, J. W. Farmer, Mattie Q. Wilson, Hattie E. Barnes, Mrs. Rebecca W. MacVey, Mrs. Mary A. Umbarger, O. W. Strong, Orrin Keeler, L. Keeler, J. J. Joliffe, O. I. Strong, Ellen Porter, W. E. Eskridge, Hattie Drown, S. A. Smith, Owen Bromley, Martha E. Rowley, Phoebe C. Hewlett, Delilah Hamble, Mrs. Sarah P. Farmer, L. M. Harris, Maggie J. Lind, Anna B. Campbell, Sarah Slosson, Kate Mattern, Carrie Haviland and Fannie Barnes.

Oscar F. Avery served as the first superintendent of public schools being appointed by County Judge John A. James, on March 20, 1861. He was succeeded by Wm. H. Hait on May 6, 1861. He resigned April 22, 1862. Ora Harvey, the father of Helen, was appointed his successor and served until January 7, 1863. Mr. Avery was paid $6.00 for his services rendered as County Superintendent from the time of his appointment until that date, a period of nine months. He issued certificates to Helen M. Harvey, Ellen Condon and one or two others.

The contract for the brick schoolhouse was let July 21, 1860, to W. H. Hait and Robert Struthers for $4,850. The brick were burned in the immediate vicinity and the lumber was sawed at the steam sawmill of F. H. Hait. It was completed and accepted March 9, 1861.

The original records of W. H. Hait, Pocahontas County Treasurer for 1860 and 1861 show the following expenditures in the teachers fund:

August 9, by cash paid, Helen M. Harvey .	$90.00
Sept. 8, by cash paid, Helen M. Harvey ..	20.00
Oct. 18, by cash paid, Helen M. Harvey .	30.00
Jan. 11, by cash paid, O. F. Avery	35.00

Feb. 8, by cash paid, O. F. Avery 35.00
Mar. 11, by cash paid, Edward Hammond 21.00
Mar. 18, by cash paid, O. F. Avery 35.00
April 1, by cash paid, Michael Collins Treas. of Sub. District No. 1 Pocahontas Co. .. 125.00
May 3, by cash paid, O. F. Avery 35.00
July 1, by cash paid, John A. James 3.25
July 1, by cash paid, Helen M. Gardner .. 20.00
July 29, by cash paid, Helen M. Gardner . 20.00
Aug. 12, by cash paid, Michael Collins .. 45.00
Aug. 22, by cash paid, Ora Harvey 80.00
Dec. 14, by cash paid, Michael Collins .. 80.00

The same records show that the whole amount of School House taxes levied for the year of 1860 was $2,427.80.

School House Fund expenditure in 1861 show the following entries:

Feb. 8, by cash paid, O. F. Avery 50.00
April 5, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 40.00
April 5, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 32.00
April 5, by cash paid, Egbert Bagg 6.00
Sept. 3, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 500.00
Dec. 16, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 400.00
Jan. 6, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 50.00
Jan. 6, by cash paid, Wm. H. Hait 16.50

Teachers Fund taxes levied for 1860 were $1,214.01. The whole amount of School House taxes levied for 1861 was $1,125.98.

The first school election was held in the spring of 1860. Mr. Robert Struthers was chosen one of the three members of the first board of directors in the Des Moines Township district, which then embraced all of the county except the Lizard district. Mr. Struthers' intelligence and energy as a member of this board gave him such influence that Rev. Robert Flickinger, in his Pocahontas County history, calls him the father of Pocahontas County's school system.

Oscar F. Avery, mentioned above as first superintendent of schools was born in Herkimer county, New York, July 20, 1833, and after attending public school until he was sixteen, enjoyed the advantage of one term at Fairfield Academy. After teaching public school in his own county four winters he spent one and one-half years in the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y., where he graduated in January 1856.

He continued to teach school during the next three years, teaching one year in Michigan and the next in Wisconsin. His marriage occurred a short time after he graduated and his last term of school was taught in Pocahontas county during the winter of 1860, making him one of the first three teachers of the county. This school was taught in the log house built by W. H. Hait that stood upon the ground occupied by the present residence on Section 26, Des Moines township.

DES MOINES TOWNSHIP

President of the board—Ora Harvey 1860-62; John A. James '63; Robert Struthers '64-71, '78-81; Wm. D. McEwen '72-75; J. J. Bruce '76-77; Claus Johnson '82; A. E. Dickey, Perry Nowlen '84-85; Lot Fisher, Henry Ham 87, '96-68; R. B. Fish, Thomas Rogers, R. H. Gifford '90-91; J. J. Ruff '92-94; W. N. McAneny, J. A. Budolfson '99-1900.

Secretaries—Roderick Harris 1860-65; W. S. Fegles '66-74; J. W. Farmer '75-77; J. J. Bruce, 78-80; Geo. W. Horton, B. L. Inman, Clause Johnson '83-88; Wm. E. Struthers '89-1901.

Treasurers—Wm. H. Hait 1860-63, '83-88; Fred A. Metcalf '64-65; Matthew Tilley '66; Wm. Jarvis '67-82; Claus Johnson '89-1901.

The board of directors in 1900 consisted of nine members who represented the districts in the following order: J. A. Nurray, G. J. Peck, J. A. Budolfson, Niels Truelson, I. F. Fisher, S. J. Ritchey O. Clapsaddle, Thomas H. Fisher and Geo. F. Smith.

CLINTON TOWNSHIP

The first school house in Clinton Township was built by W. D. McEwen and Harry Jarvis Carpenters in 1865 on Section II in the Molcolm district. The first teacher was Edward Strong. Previously many of the children in Clinton Township had attended school in the brick school house in Des Moines Twp. Clinton was included in the Des Moines Township school district until the end of 1868.

The Clinton Township school district was organized in the spring of 1869. The officers of the school board have been as follows:

Presidents: Joseph Clason, 1869-70, 73: E. L. Brown, '71; A. H. Malcolm, '72; Sewell Van Alstine, '74; E. D. Seely, Ira Scranton, '76-77, '82-83; Alfred Baker, '78-79; C. Beacock, J. M. Bush, '81, 84-85; A. R. Doxsee, '86-87; I. C. Brucaker, '88, '91-92; S. Gish, '88; Axel Gad, '89, '93; Wm. C. Kennedy, '90; P. J. Canon, '94; B. C. Votlucka, '95-1900.

Secretaries: P. C. Harder, 1869-72; P. H. Bendixen, '73-77, '80-95; M. F. Seely, '78-79; H. W. Harris, '96-1900.

Treasurers: D. W. Hunt, 1869-71; B. Messenger '72-73; A. H. Malcolm, '73-81; W. C. Kennedy, '82-83; H. A. Lind, 84; Julius White, '85-1900.

The directors in the several districts for the year 1900 were: No. 1, J. E. Schmaing; 2, W. C. Kennedy: 3, L. B. Hersom; 4, P. J. Condon; 5, Niels Peterson; 6, Sewell Van Alstine; 7, Benjamin Behrendse; 8, B. C. Votlucka.

In 1865, there were two districts with 100 children of school ages. Des Moines Township had 51 and Lizard district 39.

In 1870 there were 591 children in the county, of whom 307 were enrolled in schools with an average attendance of 159. In 1875 there were 13 districts and 902 children. In 1880 there were 15 districts and 1,401 children. By 1890 there were 119 districts and 3,339 children.

The first county teachers institute was held in the brick school house at Old Rolfe in December 1870, by County Superintendent David Miller.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

Perry Nowlen, of Des Moines Township, was the first one elected to the office of Superintendent of Schools in Pocahontas County. It was at the second election of county officers, held Oct. 11, 1859, that he was elected but he did not qualify. As previously mentioned, on March 20, 1860, the County Judge, John A. James, appointed Oscar F. Avery to fill the vacancy, and as its first incumbent, he held this office from the date of his appointment until May 6, 1861, when he resigned. W. H. Hait was appointed as his successor on that same date, by the board of county supervisors, and held the office of county superintendent until April 22, 1862. On that day Ora Harvey was appointed to fill the vacancy and served as County Superintendent during the remaining months of that year. On Jan. 7, 1863, Michael Collins was appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Board of Supervisors and held the office during that year.

Fred E. Metcalf, the next County Superintendent, was elected by the people and served one term of two years, 1864 and 1865. He was succeeded by W. D. McEwen, who served one term, 1866 and 1867; James J. Bruce one term, 1868 and 1869; David Miller one term, 1870 and 1871; and Geo. W. Hathaway one term, 1872 and 1873.

Oscar I. Strong was elected as the next incumbent and served from Jan. 1, 1874 to June 9, 1875, when he resigned on account of poor health and went to California. J. F. Clark on Oct. 25th, following, was elected to fill the vacancy thus occurring, and being re-elected the ensuing year, held the office from the date of his appointment until the first Monday in anuary, 1878, a period of three and one-half years.

David Miller, being re-elected served his second term during the years 1880 and 1881.

J. P. Robinson was the next incumbent and, being re-elected in 1883, served as County Superintendent four years, 1882-1885. J. H. Campbell was his successor and also served four years, 1886 to 1889.

Fred C. Gilchrist held the office during the next two years, 1890-1891; and Clel Gilchrist, his elder brother, during the next three terms, or six years, 1892-1897. Arthur W. Davis entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1898.

SCHOOL LANDS AND BOOKS

The school lands of the county, which embraces all of Section 16 in each township, by direction of the board of supervisors were appraised and put upon the market for sale during the latter part of this period. As early as June 8, 1869, the auditor was directed to notify the trustees of the townships then organized to divide section 16 into suitable tracts and appraise them according to law on or before the 28th day of that month. On that day the trustees of Lizard township, A. H. Van Valkenburgh, Henry Steckleburgh and Joseph Breitenbach, reported an appraisement of their lands at $3, $4, $5 and $6 an acre; D. W. Hunt, Joseph Clason and A. H. Malcolm, Trustees of Clinton, those of that township at $1.25, to $2.50 an acre; Wm. Jarvis, Oscar Slosson and Robert Struthers, those of Des Moines township at $1.25 to $1.50 an acre; and Samuel Booth, Henry Tilley and Geo. Van Natta, those of Powhatan Township at $1.25, $2.00 and $2.50 an acre.

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The auditor was then directed to sell these lands to the highest bidder, but in no instance for a less amount than their appraised value. The conditions of payment were one third of the whole amount in cash and the balance in ten years with interest at ten per cent.

Notwithstanding the apparently low valuation put upon them and the long time allowed for payment these lands sold very slowly. As the sale of these lands was of no special interest to any one except the county auditor, those from a distance who came to buy land did not ordinarily have their attention called to them unless they met that officer, to whom alone their sale was entrusted.

The school lands of Dover Township were not appraised and exposed for sale until May 15, 1878. As late as June 6, 1882, some of the school land in nearly every one of the townships in the county remained unsold, and by request of the board of supervisors, aother report of an appraisement of their unsold school lands was made by the trustees of Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Grant, Lake, Lincoln, Washington and Powhatan Townships.

On Jan. 8, 1879, the permanent school fund of the county was $5,466.67, the number of school children enrolled was 1,187 and the amount of school funds received from the state, at the rate of twenty-five cents each, was $296.75.

During that year an effort was made to secure uniformity of text books in all the schools of the county. This movement was inaugurated by R. M. Wilbur of Pomeroy, agent for the publications of A. S. Barnes & Co. He first visited the county institute and secured from the teachers a report commending the movement to the directors of the several townships in the county. The plan was adopted by Bellville, Center, Clinton, Des Moines, Grant, Lincoln and Lizard Townships. The books were introduced at a greatly reduced price and, what seemed a very commendable feature at that time, many of the books "at an extra cost of 5 or 10 cents each, were bound with an iron binding that made them so strong no two boys could tear one apart."

W. D. McEwen, who had spent several years attending Huntington Academy in the Province of Quebec moved to the county seat, Old Rolfe, in 1865 and became Superintendent of Public Schools in the county in 1866, a post which he held for two years. During his first three years in the county he taught school at Old Rolfe in

the winter and worked at his trade, carpentry, in the summer. He later became a banker in Rolfe.

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ROLFE

In December 1881 the first public school was established under the direction of Maggie Hall in a building that stood north of the First National Bank building, and for some months afterwards this building was used for the Sunday school and church services. It was later used as a stable by Dr. W. W. Beam.

In 1883, when J. J. Bruce built the double two story frame building at the south end of Garfield street from the lumber of the old court house and later known as the Tremain House, the services were transferred to the public hall over the store of Weible & Hauck in the north half of this building.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ROLFE

In response to a petition presented to the board of directors of Clinton Township in January, 1884, the Independent District of Rolfe was established, embracing all the territory on sections 5 and 6, and W½ Sec. 4, N½ Sec. 8, and NW½ Sec. 9, N½ Sec. 7, in Clinton (92-31), all of section 32, and S½ Sec. 31 and W½ Sec. 33 in Des Moines (93-31) Townships.

After that time several additions were made to this district. On Sept. 15, 1884, at the request of Henry Hayward, owner, N.E.¼ Sec. 8, Clinton; on Jan. 16, 1891, at the request of J. Denend, the NW¼ SW¼ Sec. 4, Clinton, and on Sept. 16, 1895, at the request of Thomas Heather, the SW½ SW¼ Sec. 33, Des Moines Township, were added.

On March 10, 1884, at the first meeting of the electors of the independent district, the first board of directors was elected as follows: James J. Bruce, Frederick H. Symes and M. W. Coffin. The board organized by the selection of M. W. Coffin for president; James J. Bruce, secretary, and John Lee, treasurer.

The succession of officers to the year 1900 was as follows:

Presidents: M. W. Coffin, 1884-85; F. H. Symes, '86; M. Lathrop, '87-90; J. J. Bruce, '91-92; W. F. Bright, '93-94; F. C. Thomas, '95; John Ratcliff, '96; Wm. D. McEwen, '97; Michael Cranhan, '98-99; W. W. Beam, M. D., 1900.

Secretaries: James J. Bruce '84; M. Lathrop, '85; J. L. Warden, '86-92; J. H. Lighter, '93-96; A. L. Schultz, '96-97; H. D. Smith, '97-98; F. C. Thomas, '99-1900.

Treasurers: John Lee, '84-89; J. B. Kent, '90-99; W. P. Wheeler, 1900.

Others who have served as members of the board are: C. A. Grant, '87-89; M. Weible, '89; H. A. Lind, '89-90; G. W. Dickinson, '89-91; C. C. Delle, '89; D. D. Day, '90-92; Geo. F. Spence, '90, '94-96; S. A. Grove, '90-92; A. O. Garlock, '91; H. D. Smith '91; W. F. Bright, '92-95; C. J. Doxsee, '92-93; John Ratcliff, '92-96; C. E. Gill, '93; W. B. Sanders, '93-94; F. C. Thomas, '95-97; W. P. Wheeler, '96-1900; A. B. Symes, '98-1900. In 1889, the board was increased from three to six members, and in 1900 it consisted of W. W. Beam, M. D., president; M. C. Brown, J. B. Kent, A. B. Symes and Michael Crahan; F. C. Thomas, secretary, and W. P. Wheeler, treasurer.

Principals: J L. Warden, '84-85; L. M. Beebe and Amos Hoffman, in '86; A. W. Sargent, '87; Fred C. Gilchrist, '88-90; J. L. Martin, '90; S. A. Emery, '90-93; J. M. Humphrey, T. J. Loar, '95; A. T. Rutledge, 96-1900.

The assistant teachers to 1900 were Roy Wilkinson, '84; Jeanie Charlton, '85; Ida Charlton, '85-87; Jennie Bodenham, '87-90; Mabel Lucas, '89; Mrs. J. H. Campbell, '90; May Palmer, '90-91; Anna Grove, Francis Beam, '90-91; Lillie Gordon, '92; Grace McMartin, '92-93; Mrs. Lucy Messenger, '93; Mary Woodward, '94; Horonse Ratcliffe, '94-98, 1900; Nellie Connor, '94; Mrs. B. Montogomery, Bertha James, Mrs. M. Barnes, '95-96; Mamie Baxger, '95-96; Alice Sherman, '95-97; G. G. Wilcox, '96; Alice Sherman, '95-97; C. G. Wilcox, '96; F. L. Cassidy, '97-98; Emma Sirene, '97; Mrs. May Rich, '97-1900; Mrs. Rose Crow, '98; Lillian Poerterfield, '99-1900; Julia Sinnett, '99-1900; Jennie Beam, '99; Viola Quint, Sybil Spencer and Mrs. G. A. Bickell.

Two teachers were employed at the time the independent district was organized. The third teacher was added in 1889. On March 31, 1890, by a vote of 54 to 2, it was decided to erect a new brick building for which the site was purchased of A. O. Garlock, May 17, 1890. The new two-story brick building containing four rooms was erected by T. H. Connor, contractor, for $7,973.00. In 1898 a two story addition containing four more rooms was added. This made it the largest and one of the finest school buildings in the county at that time.

The course of instruction embraced five departments—first and second primary, intermediate, grammer and high school. The high school included four grades of one year each—the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. The school year was thirty-six weeks and the enrollment of pupils in 1900 was 315, who were cared for by a faculty of eight instructors. The rules provided for the suspension of any pupil who was absent more than six half-days in any four consecutive weeks, unless detained by sickness or some urgent cause; also for using tobacco in any form or profane or improper language on the schoolgrounds.

In November, 1900, Mr. G. W. Schee, of Primghar, a liberal friend of education, offered the people of Rolfe $100.00 if they would raise $250.00 more, for the purpose of putting a good library in the Rolfe high school. With the approval of the board of education Prof. A. T. Tutledge began the work of solicitation, the peo-

ROLFE SCHOOL BUILDING, 1890

ple responded liberally and in a few days the required amount was raised. This library, costing $350.00 and obtained before Christmas, 1900, formed a valuable literary equipment for the Rolfe school.

In June 1887, Aggie Garlock of Rolfe had the honor of being the first in the county to receive the certificate for having passed a final examination with a standing of 90 percent, on completing the eight years course of study, according to the classification register adopted Nov. 9, 1886, by the board of supervisors for the district schools of the county.

The first commencement of the Rolfe High School was held on Friday Evening July 17, 1892. The program was as follows:

Music
Invocation ..... Rev. A. C. Keeler
Music
Salutatory ..... G. D.
Recitation ..... "Voices of the Dead"
Gussie Wilcox
Oration ..... "The Nations, Past and Present"
George Day
Recitation ..... "The Flood of Years"
Clara B. Spence
Music
Oration and Valedictory .....
....."Value of Time and Knowledge"
Robert Bruce
Music
Presentation of Diplomas ..... J. J. Bruce
President of the School Board
Address ..... "Structures"
Prof. S. A. Emery
Music
Benediction ..... Rev. T. S. Cole

Musicians Mrs. C. M. Webb, Soprano; Mrs. W. U. Bruce, Alto; Mr. Bert Lee, Tenor; Mr. F. H. Plumb, Basso; Miss Minnie Keeler, Organist.
Ushers—Martha Day, Hattie Holt, Julia Ratcliff, Gwenme Doxsee.

The graduates were: Robert Bruce, George Day, Clara Spencer, Gussie Wilcox.

The 1893 graduates were Gwendolyn Doxsee, Ida Dennis, Aggie Grove, and Julie Ratcliff. No graduates are listed for 1894 and 1895. The 1896 graduates were Henry Bright, Jessie Loor, and Sybil Spencer. These were evidently ten year graduates.

The first twelve grade graduation from the Rolfe High School was in 1897. Six graduates were listed as follows:—Lyle Burgess, Grace Grove, Nellie Grant, Alfred Ireland, William Ratcliff, Ben Sherman.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Minutes of school board meetings prior to 1896 have not been preserved. Examination of the Sept. 24, 1896, minutes prepared by Secretary A. L. Schultz, reveal that C. A. Grant and Sons contracted to sell Beacon coal to the school for a delivered price of $.270.

A special meeting was called by President John Ratcliff on November 7, 1896, at which time it was decided to refer the question of the tuition of two students to the State Superintendent for his decision.

COURSE OF STUDY

On November 30, 1896, Principal A. T. Rutledge was authorized to prepare a course of study which was to be published, provided that advertising could be solicited to pay the cost of publishing. The 20-page course of study was published January 15, 1897, listing Rules and Regulations of the school, grade and high school course of study, textbooks and a register of all pupils enrolled in the various grades from September 7, 1897, to January 15, 1897. There were also 20 pages of advertising, chiefly from Rolfe establishments. A copy of this booklet is in the possession of Forrest Grant, who also has a copy of the 1892 Commencement program for the Rolfe High School.

The Rules and Regulations as given in the above booklet may be of interest, and we have included them below:

"The board of directors of Rolfe graded schools has in conference with the teachers, adopted the following rules and regulations to the better government of the pupils and to more clearly define the duties of all concerned. We ask, therefore, a cheerful compliance with these on the part of both pupils and teachers, and invite the co-operation of the patrons of our schools in rendering them successful and beneficial.

"The course of instruction shall embrace five

departments, viz.: First and second primary, intermediate, grammer and high school.

"The first primary department shall consist of two grades of one year each: first and second. The second primary of two grades of one year each: third and fourth. The intermediate department of two grades of one year each: fifth and sixth. The grammar department of two grades of one year each: seventh and eighth.

The high shcool shall consist of four grades of one year each: ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth.

Non-Residents

Non-residents who may wish to identify themselves with our school may have all the advantages that the school affords by the payment of a tuition fee of $1.50 per month in advance to the secretary of school board.

Calendar

The school year consists of thirty-six weeks, divided into three terms as follows:

First term begins first Monday in September and ends the last Friday before Christmas.

Second term begins the first Monday after New Year's day and continues twelve weeks.

After a vacation of one or two weeks the third term will begin and continue the remainder of school year. The commencement of these terms is subject to change by the board. Thanksgiving and Decoration Day shall be regarded as holidays.

We recommend that pupils entering the first grade begin at the first of a term; otherwise it will not be possible to give them the time and attention that they should have.

Duties of Principal

1. The principal of the school shall perform the duties and be the superintendent of the schools under the direction of the board.

2. It shall be his duty to superintend the classification of scholars; to examine pupils for promotion; and he shall carefully preserve the work of all teachers, and shall consult and advise with them upon all matters pertaining to their departments.

3. He shall investigate all cases of misconduct or discipline referred to him by any teacher or brought to his notice, and if of a serious nature, shall have power to suspend or dismiss, and report same to board.

4. At the close of the school year he shall deposit with the secretary of the board all class books, records, registers and reports used during the year and such report of the condition of the progress and of the wants of the school as may be required of him.

Duties of Teachers

1. Teachers shall see that the rooms and furniture are kept free from marks, defacements or injuries of any kind, and that the pupils do not abuse their books by tearing, marking or drawing in them, but that they exhibit good taste in the neat and clean condition of their books.

2. Each teacher is required to have a copy of the regulations in his or her school room, to acquaint himself with them, and to read to the pupils, at the commencement of each term, so much of same as will give them an understanding of the rules which apply to their conduct and by which they are governed.

3. It shall be considered the most important duty of teachers to execise constant care over the general conduct of their pupils, not only when in school, but also on their way to and from home, and they are especially enjoined to avail themselves of every opportunity to inculcate the observance of correct manners, habits and principles.

4. All teachers are required to be in their respective rooms at least fifteen minutes before school time, to receive and control their pupils.

5. Teachers shall pay close attention to the temperature and ventilation of their rooms, taking care that the temperature shall not exceed seventy degrees.

6. Teachers shall not allow disorder of any kind in the halls. Each teacher will see that his or her pupils file in and out in an orderly manner. Pupils shall be under the control of the teacher after coming on the school ground and during the entire session.

Duties of Pupils

1. Pupils are expected to be regular and punctual in their attendance, and to be obedient to the rules and directions of the teachers, and polite and kind to all with whom they may associate; for our aim is to develop noble manhood and womanhood and make our boys and girls strong for the battle of life.

2. Each pupil must be supplied with the necessary books, papers, etc., to be used in the grade to which he or she belongs.

3. Pupils shall not be permitted to stand in the hall, and on passing through it and on going up and down staiirs, shall pass in a quiet and orderly manner.

4. Pupils, on being dismissed, shall immediately leave the school premises.

5. Every pupil shall be recorded tardy who is not in the school room at the exact moment fixed for the session to commence.

6. No pupils shall leave the school room during school hours, or the yard at recess without permission from the teacher.

7. Any pupil who is absent more than six half days in any four consecutive weeks, unless detained by sickness or some urgent cause rendering punctuality impossible, may be suspended from the school, such suspension to remain in force until satisfactory assurance is given that attendance thereafter will be regular, or until pupil is reinstated by the board. One tardiness, or leaving

school without permission, shall be regarded as one absence.

8. In case of absence or tardiness, the teacher may require an excuse from the parent or guardian in writing or in person, and lessons lost on account of absence or otherwise, shall be made up unless sufficient reasons appear to the contrary.

9. For persistent refusal to obey the rules of the school or teacher, a pupil may be suspended, and cannot be reinstated until satisfactory apology is made to the principal or board.

10. Any pupil using tobacco in any form, or profane or improper language on the school ground shall stand suspended until reinstated by the board.

11. Any pupil who shall be guilty of cutting, scratching, marking or otherwise injuring or defacing any school property, or damaging the trees on the school grounds shall be dealt with according to statute.

12. No pupil shall be promoted from one class or grade to another until he is able to pass an examination, satisfactory to the principal, in all the studies of the grade from which he is transferred.

13. Any pupil who shall absent himself from any regular examination or special exercise of the school without valid excuse, shall not be permitted to advance with his class until the neglected duty has been performed in a satisfactory manner.

14. No pupil affected with any contagious disease or coming from families where such diseases exist shall be allowed to remain in school.

15. Any pupil suspended from school by virtue of any of the above rules, can be restored only on such conditions as the board of directors shall determine.

Duties of the Janitor

1. It shall be the duty of the janitor to keep the grounds free from rubbish and to wash the windows and all inside woodwork of the building or such parts of the same as require it at least one week before the commencement of each term and at such other times as the board may direct.

2. To carefully sweep and dust the school rooms, furniture, closets and halls at the close of each day's session.

3. To keep the furnaces and basement in proper condition, and have the school rooms properly warmed at least thirty minutes before the opening of school and keep the same at the proper temperature as the principal may direct; to close and fasten all outside doors and windows at night; to keep out-buildings clean and in repair and locked except in school hours; to ring the bell at such times and in such manner as the principal may direct; to be present at the noon hour and have full control of building and scholars during teachers' absence both in school house and on the play ground.

In General

In general we desire to teach the following:

Habits: Personal—Cleanliness, order, regularity, obedience, civility. Moral—Truthfulness, reverence, purity, respect for authority, self respect. Mental—Silence, attention, concentration of thought, acquirement of knowledge, reproduction of knowledge.

Duties: To self—Choice of companions, good name, good manners, self control. Miscellaneous—Employment, home, school, economy, patriotism, charity. To society—Honesty, justice, kindness, courtesy, mutual help.

Ends of moral instruction: To form correct physical habits, to quicken the conscience, to awaken a desire for the good, to impel right action through right choice, to give clear conception of right or wrong. The high school curriculum of study consisted of the following courses:

Ninth—Arithmetic, U. S. history, grammer bookkeeping, physical geography.

Tenth grade—Algebra, civil government, rhetoric, bookkeeping, botany.

Eleventh grade—Algebra, geometry, general history, Latin, etymology, physics.

Twelfth grade—Geometry, economics, reviews, literature, Latin, chemistry.

In 1897 the enrollment figures were: High School—Grade 12, nine; grade 11, eight; grade 10, 11; grade 9, 28. Grammer Room—Grade 8, 20; grade 7, 22. Intermediate Room—Grade 6, 25; grade5, 20. Second primary room—Grade 4, 26; grade 3, 20. First primary room—Grade 2, 31; grade 1, 42.Total high school—56. Eelementary—206.

FIRST COUNTY DECLAMATORY CONTEST

The first declamatory contest between the pupils of the various schools of this county was held at Fonda April 29, 1897. Four schools were represented. The participants were Miss Jennie Eaton and Weston Martin, Fonda; Litta Tumbleson and Grace Smith, Havelock; Clara Heathman and Margie McEwen, Plover; Robert Ainslie and Grace Grove, Rolfe. The judges were Prof. Holdoegel, Rev. J. A. Commings, and D. M. Kelleher, Esq., who gave the award to the representatives from Fonda. The teachers present formed a county declamatory association by the election of Prof. Rutledge of Rolfe, president, and Prof. U. S. Vance of Havelock, secretary; and Rolfe was chosen as the place for the next contest. The arrangements for this one were undertaken and carried to completion by Prof. A. W. Davis, of Fonda.

MORE SECRETARY'S MINUTES

In 1896-97 the board of directors were: John Ratcliff, president; G. F. Spence, F. C. Thomas, M. Crahan, W. P. Wheeler. A. L. Schultz was secretary and J. B. Kent treasurer.

The faculty consisted of six teachers— A T. Rutledge, A. B., principal; C. G. Wilcox, assistant principal; Mrs. B. Barnes, grammer department; Miss Hortease Ratcliff, intermediate department; Miss Mayme Boxter, second primary department; Miss Alice Sherman, primary department.

Non residents were charged a tuition fee of $1.50 per month payable in advance to the secretary of the school board.

On April 2, 1897, the board set the salaries of teachers for the school year beginning September, 1897, as follows: Principal, $80 per month; asst. principal, $40; grammer dept., $40; intermediate dept., $40; second primary dept., $40; first primary, $45.

It was also decided at this meeting that at least three board members should visit the school at least one-half day each month.

The board met in special session August 23, 1897, and accepted a proposition by the Baptist Church trustees to rent the church lecture room as a school room for $100 for the school year. The church was to furnish room, one stove, use of furnace and room in basement for coal, also to build one outdoor toilet and allow the board to build one and remove it at end of lease. A school election was held on March 14, 1898, at which time a four-room school addition was voted 114 to 18.

The board met June 22, 1898, and accepted the following bids for new school addition.

1. C. W. Coffin was awarded bid to furnish rock delivered at $6.50 per car.
2. Bid of Ed Wood to do all stonework and brickwork at $425 was accepted.
3. C. E. Young was awarded plastering contract at 6½ cents per yard.
4. Lathing contract was awarded G. A. Shaven at 2 cents per yard.
5. Cory Pressed Brick Company of Lehigh was to furnish pressed brick at $13 per thousand and Fort Dodge Clay Work was to furnish common brick at $4.80 per thousand.

On July 2, 1898, A. W. Ireland was awarded contract to furnish all material for woodwork, roof, and painting and to do all the work for $1,795.

On July 14, 1898, 45 ballots were cast by the board in an effort to fill a teaching vacancy in the grammer department. None of the three candidates received a majority. The board met again on July 18 and Mrs. Rose Crow was selected on the second ballot.

On August 8, 1898, the American Warming and Ventilating Company was awarded the contract to install a complete heating system for $1,305. The board met August 20, 1898, and set the janitor salary at $300 per year. E. J. Whieler was the janitor at that time.

A bill of $1.75 for five brooms was presented to the board January 27, 1899, by A. C. Thomas. It was approved.

PART II: 1900-1963

Since we have written at length concerning our schools prior to the year 1900 we will attempt to be more brief in this part of the history.

The vote for directors in the March 1900 school election gives indication of the high interest in education at that time. W. W. Beam and J. B. Kent were elected with 116 and 114 votes respectively. Their opponents, W. B. Saunders and J. H. Wilson, each received 31 votes. Since Rolfe was an Independent District these votes came from townspeople. The board met March 19, 1900, and set the school tax levy for the following year at $5,800. Teacher's Salaries Fund was set at $2,800, Schoolhouse Fund at $1,500 and Contingent Expenses Fund at $1,500.

The resignation of Principal A. T. Rutledge was accepted on January 2, 1901, and F. L. Cassidy was elected principal to finish out the term.

In 1903 countywide figures showed 4,681 children with an average attendance of 2,746. Forty-four men teachers were employed with an average salary of $40.25 per month; 267 women taught with an average salary of $34.26. The cost of tuition was $2.43 per month in 1903.

Lack of space prompted a special school election April 18, 1904, at which a $10,000 bond issue was approved for the purpose of building additional school rooms. The vote carried 273-33. The addition was accepted by the board on November 11, 1904, after an examination by President J. B. Kent and board member J. P. Sherman. The board tendered the contractors, Baird and Wood, a vote of thanks for the workmanlike manner in which they did their work.

The following quotes are from a 1906 newspaper article:

"Getting Educated"

"Many Rolfe Young People Leave for School"

"Rolfe and community are sending a large number of young persons to the different colleges and schools of the state. We say state, for with two exceptions they are all colleges in Iowa. Those atending Morningside college at Sioux City are Fae, Glenn and Kenneth Squires, Beryle White and Raymond Rogers; Iowa City, John and August Brinkman, Florence Fuller, Gus Evenson, Roy Champbell, Don McEwen, Elmer Schnug, and George Gunderson; Ames, Mary Smith; Storm Lake, Will Brinkman, Harry McEwen; Mt. Vernon, Hazel Beam, S. J. Nielson, Anna Goodchild; Cedar Falls, Mable Lighter and Flossie Ranson; Grinnell, Mac Kent; Cedar Rapids, Ewing McEwen; Des Moines, Robert Dunham; Jessie Brinkman, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Agnes Lind, Mitchell, South Dakota. Rolfe teachers who go out of town are Mary Jensen, teacher at Ann Arbor, Michigan; Agnes Ferguson at Morningside, Sioux City; Grace Grove at

Holstein, Iowa; Clara Smith, daughter of G. F. Smith at the Kennedy school house; Clara Smith, daughter of E. R. Smith at the Strong school house; Bertha Williams in Garfield township; Clara Mamie Graham, Katie Peterson, Anna O'Keefe, Lottie Fisher and Nellie Sherman will teach but we have not learned where.

"The Rolfe girls who teach in Rolfe are as follows: Dora Barker, Nellie Grant, Blanche Cuff, Maggie Crahan, Cora Lighter and Bertha Wilson. Of the above teachers and persons going away to school, 30 are graduates of the Rolfe high school. Also about 15 others spoken of in this article. It may be that there are others who are going away to school or who are graduates of the Rolfe high school who are teaching, but this is all we can think of at this time.

"We might mention other Rolfe young men and ladies who are making their mark in the world, who attended school in Rolfe or elsewhere and who are holding positions of honor and trust. For instance, in Rolfe, W. H. Wilcox, attorney and mayor; Attorney Fred Sherman; Robert and James Bruce, attorneys, and in State Saving Bank; Will Bruce in the shoe business; Chas. Bowen of the firm of Charlton & Bowen; W. P. Jensen, candidate for county superintendent; August Weible and George Hauck, merchants; J. T. Grant, lumber; C. E. Fraser, cashier State Saving Bank; M. Bruce, postmaster; Clint Core, druggist; A. G. Hancher, Shull Lumber Co.; Clark Brown, grain; Guy Lothian with Weible & Hauck; Clarence and Ervil Lighter of the Reveille; Lulu Pirigal in the postoffice; Mable Rogers, stenographer and bookkeeper for Charlton & Bowen; Ida Bryon, graduated in music at Morningside college; Florence Grant in Fergusons & Co's store; Jennie Jones, telephone operator; F. A. Malcolm, civil engineer; Edna Marcum, telephone operator, Rolfe; Elmer Goodmiller, in Marcum hardware store; O. P. Malcolm, deputy county auditor and candidate for treasurer; G. W. Day, druggist at Pocahontas; Mamie Jones, trainee nurse at Omaha; John Spencer, minister, Albia, Iowa.

"Those who have left Rolfe that comes to our mind now are: William Ratcliff, nominee for county attorney at Red Oak, Iowa; Lee Delle, attorney and deputy commissioner of the district court, North Yakima, Washington; Frank Kuhns, railroad agent at Wolcott, Iowa; Alfred Kuhns, railroad agent at Sheboygan, Wisconsin; D. O. Snodgress, bookkeeper for grain company at Leverett, Iowa, Harry Spencer, physician at Oakland, Iowa; Ben Sherman, physician, Dexter, Iowa; Chas. Howland, physician, Montezuma, Iowa; Henry Bright, physician, White Lake, South Dakota; Ben Markin, physician, Columbia, North Dakota; Hugh Beam, physician, Bradgate, Iowa; Curtis Delle with land firm at Spooner, Wisconsin; Mark Delle, railroad agent at Thor, Iowa; Arthur Cuff, manager of a business at Spokane, Washington; Lynn Jorgenson, barber at Harley, Iowa; Arthur Lighter, foreman of Enterprise, Cody, Wyoming; Harris Thomas, position at insane asylum, Independence, Iowa; C. P. Lathrop, manager of grain business at Pocahontas, Iowa: Stanley Carson, missionary to India; F. M. Ritchey, in lumber business at Bradgate, Iowa; Alfred Ireland, assistant superintendent of electric firm, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Mary Everson, bookkeeper for the White & Co., Humboldt, Iowa; Earnest Coiner, Des Moines, graduate as trained nurse in the Navy.

And we might go on and add many more names of young men who are entitled to be mentioned in this list but cannot remember them all. There are also a number of young ladies not mentioned perhaps who are good wives and mothers or holding positions as teachers or engaged in the milliner or mercantile business.

"Where is there a town the size of Rolfe that can make as good a showing? Does the fact that Rolfe is a temperance town and never had any saloons and few pool and billiard halls have anything to do with this good showing? It certainly does. There are a dozen or two young men here who might just as well be numbered among those spoken of above if they would have put forth their energies and time in that direction in place of seeking idleness or spending their time where it was a detriment to them rather than a benefit." This newspaper article was found in a scrapbook owned by Miss Inga Ryen of Rolfe.

In 1908 Principal Cassidy was succeeded by Thomas R. Amlie who was given the title of superintendent. Mr. Amlie must have had rough sailing, for a remonstrance from the majority of the school patrons was presented to the board in March, 1909. However, he weathered the storm and was re-elected unanimously. He resigned the following month, and Byron J. Still was chosen to succeed him.

The following levies were approved for the 1909-1910 school year:

Teachers Fund	$ 4,200
School House Fund	1,300
Contingent Fund	2,000
	$ 7,500

During the years 1911-1914, under the administration of Supt. Harry L. Eells, several new courses—agriculture, normal training, home economics, and manual training—were added to the curriculum.

In 1913 what was probably the first school annual was published. The annual is complete with many pictures and interesting material. Addy Cook served as editor-in-chief. The book was dedicated to Professor H. L. Eells, superintendent of the school. The annual was sponsored by the senior class whose officers were: President, Frank Charlton; secretary, Luther Thompson; treasurer, Guy Graham.

A triangular debate match held March 19, 1913,

with Boone and Webster City lists the Rolfe negative team of Luther Thompson, Ione Coffin and Bernard Cleaver defeating Webster City 3-0 on the subject "The United States should adopt the policy of shipping subsidy." The affirmative team of Virgil Hancher, Albert Howland, and Fred Smith defeated Boone 2-1 to give Rolfe the victory. Greetings from the alumni, written by Gussie Wilcox Bruce of the first graduating class, were included in the annual.

In 1913 the board of education exhibited excellent foresight in employing a home town teacher, who was a graduate of Buena Vista College and who was teaching at Sioux Rapids, to teach English in the high school. This teacher, Miss Edna Marcum, has taught and inspired hundreds of Rolfe High School students including two Rhodes scholars, Virgil Hancher (1914), now President of the State University of Iowa, and Gordon Siefken (1925), who later taught at Southwestern College in Memphis, Tennessee. Miss Marcum has served as high school principal since 1919 and, as this is being written, is enthusiastically preparing for the annual junior-senior banquet and prom and eagerly looking forward to another year of teaching at Rolfe High School. Words cannot express the high regard in which this grand lady is held by this community. No one, excepting the Almighty, can adequately measure her service over the years to the boys and girls of this community.

Mr. A. V. Graeber succeeded Prof. Eells as school superintendent in 1914 and served one year after which time he resigned and entered the real estate business. Mr. Graeber is living in Rolfe at the present time.

By 1916 the enrollment had again outgrown the housing conditions and Supt. E. D. Bloom promoted interest in the construction of a new school building. A special $65,000 bond election was held for the purpose of constructing and equiping a new shcool house. The bond issue was approved by a vote of 295-68. Since the old buildings were to be demolished it was necessary to hold school in the various churches, and one class even met in a private home. In the fall of 1917 all the grades and the high school moved into the three-story structure which is being used at the present time. The general construction contract was awarded to the Standard Consruction Company of Minneapolis on November 9, 1916, for $59,859.52. Other contracts brought the total cost to nearly $75,000. Another school bond election for $10,000 was held on May 8, 1918, for the purpose of providing funds to complete the construction and equiping of the new building. The vote was 73-1 in favor of the proposition.

James Bruce, who had served as secretary since 1900, resigned August 27, 1917. John Brinkman was nominated and elected by the board. Mr. Brinkman served in that capacity continuously until his resignation August 3, 1959. Here is an example of a lifetime of service to the community in a position the difficulty and time consumption of which, perhaps, only a professional educator can fully appreciate.

The humor in a petition presented to the board of education November 30, 1920, is such that it must be printed for your enjoyment.

Rolfe, Iowa, November 30, 1920
To the Honorable Board of Education,
Rolfe, Iowa

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, hereby beg leave to present to your honorable body for your earnest consideration the petition to be herein below set forth, hereby stating and showing to you as follows, to wit:

That whereas the Rolfe Public School Building was so planned as to have included in its equip-

ROLFE GRADE SCHOOL BUILDING

PRESENT ROLFE SCHOOL BUILDING

ment a well ordered gymnasium to the end that the boys and girls attending said school may receive proper physical training and that their physical development may be equal to their mental growth; and

Whereas, said gymnasium was intended and calculated to be used not only by the students of said school, but by the patrons thereof as well, and under proper supervision and in accordance with the regulations adopted by your honorable body for the control and use of said gymnasium; and

Whereas, the men of our town have in times past regularly availed themselves of the privileges and benefits of physical training and exercise afforded by said gymnasium, as the result of which training and exercise they have all without exception developed into modern Apollos; and

Whereas, we, as modern, twentieth-century women, have now taken our place on a par with men in everything excepting only grace and shapeliness of figure and physical strength; and

Whereas, it is our desire to mold and shape our bodies into the perfection of symmetry and grace and to develop our physical strength in the greatest possible measure, confidently believing that such attainments may be reached through the use of said gymnasium in the proper physical exercise and training for our several individual needs as that the goddess Venus may look upon us with envy;

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned, on our own behalf and on behalf of all the women patrons of our school and on behalf of all the women of our town and community, hereby request that one evening in each week shall be set apart by you upon which evening we may have the exclusive use of said gymnasium and its equipment, and upon such conditions as will enable us to have the advantages and benefits to be received through our use of said gymnasium for the purposes and in gratification of the desires hereinabove set forth.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this petition and trust that your action hereon may be favorable to us.

Very respectfully submitted,

Mrs. O. A. McCreary	Mrs. Gussie Bruce
Mrs. A. B. Symes	Mrs. C. B. Bower
Mrs. Robt. Bruce	Mrs. J. L. Grant
Mrs. J. K. Leman	Mrs. C. H. Moon
Mrs. J. H. Brinkman	Mrs. C. J. White
Mrs. E. L. Hollis	Mrs. C. W. Sreffire
Mrs. J. R. McIntire	Mrs. F. E. Hoyne
Mrs. Ella Hille	

The reply of the board was in the affirmative.

Supt. E. D. Bloom resigned April 12, 1920, refusing a 25% increase in salary. J. R. Lautzenhiser was chosen as superintendent and he served only one year. In 1921 B. D. Evans of Holstein was elected superintendent of schools at a salary of $2,500. The secretary's annual report July 1, 1921, shows expenditures for the previous year of $28,657.02 in the General Fund and $6,503.93 in the Schoolhouse Fund.

Supt. B. D. Evans encountered difficulty be-

cause of physical violence employed upon a high school student. Said student's father became a member of the board of education and soon thereafter B. D. Evans gave way to W. L. Evans who served until 1924 when he was replaced by A. O. H. Setzepfandt. In 1926 while he was superintendent, typewriting was introduced as were bookkeeping and commercial law.

M. D. Anderson became superintendent in 1930 and remained until 1948. During his regime many changes took place and athletic history was made. In 1934, with the aid of P.W.A. labor, the gymnasium was improved by having the locker rooms enlarged and more adequately equipped with showers. Improvements were also made in the home economics department so that it might meet Smith-Hughes requirements. Extra curricular activities have always played an important part in the history of the school.

Arthur Evans (1929-1940) coached Rolfe's second untied and undefeated football team in 1938, duplicating the record of 1916. Mr. Evan's basketball teams of 1937 and 1938 brought honors to the school by reaching the state tournament. The 1937 team won the consolation championship and the 1938 team was runner-up to state champion Diagonal by a score of 31-29. The players on these teams—Keith Rickard, Lawrence Kennedy, Leo Cornwell, Bob Watts, Edgar Smith, Al Budolfson and George Marine—set a shining example for all who followed them.

Rolfe High School offered girls' basketball from 1910 until 1920, the 1912 team being undefeated. The sport was resumed in 1959.

Rolfe has been successful for many years in other activities such as music, speech, and debate. Only this year (1963) the solos and small music groups received a total of 27 division I (Superior) ratings. The band and mixed chorus also received Division I ratings this year. For the past several years our speech entrants have been very successful in the state contests.

During World War II, Rolfe High School joined many other schools in offering defense courses to help prepare young men and women for the defense of our country.

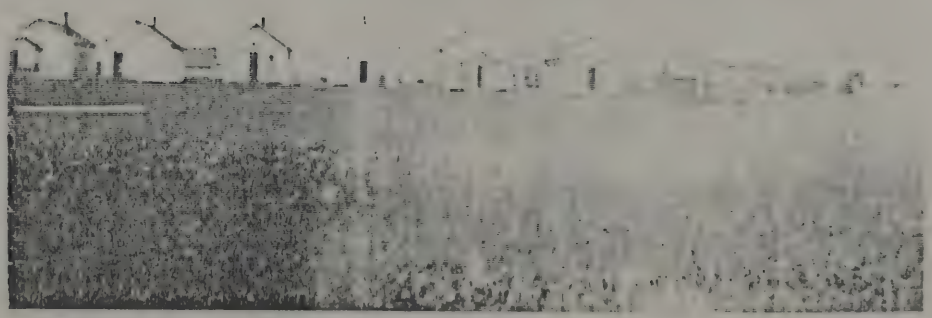
The Independent School District of Rolfe was dissolved in 1947 when the Rolfe Consolidated School came into being. The new district contained 55 sections of land and 420 students. The first directors were: M. W. Webb, president; Dr. R. B. Ranney, N. A. Wilson, Guy Bendixen and Earl Chambers.

M. D. Anderson resigned as superintendent in 1948 and was succeeded by R. O. Mortenson who served until 1959. In 1950 a $150,000 bond issue was approved for the construction of a building addition, such addition to include gymnasium, shower rooms, dressing rooms, vocational agriculture shop and classroom, homemaking room, instrumental music room, and kindergarten room.

The following bids for building addition were accepted at the March 7, 1951, board meeting: $145,880 for general contract—Clarence Anderson, Emmetsburg. $8,846.32 for electrical contract —Tierney Electric, Fort Dodge. $24,200 for plumbing and heating—A. E. Godbury, Fort Dodge. The building was completed in 1952; during the ensuing years many basketball tournaments have been held in the 2,000-seat capacity gymnasium.

In 1956 the late Guy Bendixen a former board member, willed the school in excess of $50,000 to be used for the furtherance of vocational agriculture in the Rolfe High School.

In January 1959 action was initiated to effect a reorganization merger of the Des Moines Township Consolidated School and the Rolfe Consolidated School; threatened court action held up the reorganization so that it did not go into effect until July 1, 1960. Board members during the final year were: President Lawrence Turley, Don



FIRST D.M.T. SCHOOL

Behrendsen, Russel Jordan, R. D. Dixon, L. W. Feldman and Frederick M. Hudson, secretary.

The reorganized district named Rolfe Community School District contained 84.3 square miles with an assessed valuation of approximately, five and three quarters million dollars. The school population at the time of reorganization was 506 in grades kindergarten through twelve.

Five director districts were set up with each district voting only for its director. Original board members of new disrict were: Director District No. 1, Marvin Turley; Director District No. 2, Laurence Turley; Director District No. 3, Raymond Graaf; Director District No. 4, Russel Jordan; Director District No. 5, Doctor L. W. Feldman. Russel Jordan was named president and Bonnie J. Wolfe, secretary.

Charles Underwood succeeded R. O. Mortensen as superintendent of the Rolfe Consolidated School July 1, 1959, and was named superintendent of the Rolfe Community School District, which post he holds as of this writing.

A brief history of the Des Moines Township Consolidated school follows. The author apologizes in print both for the lack of space and the lack of time to do justice to this phase of the Rolfe Centennial school history.

DES MOINES TOWNSHIP

The history of the Des Moines Township Consolidated School District officially begins with a special meeting on April 14, 1916, of the Board of Directors of the Des Moines School Township. Said board was made up of the directors of the subdistrict rural independent one-room schools. The directors were: Subdistrict No. 1, G. D. Sturthers; Subdistrict No. 2, C. W. Carpenter; Subdistrict No. 3, T. O. Thorson; Subdistrict No. 4, B. J. Lehnus; Subdistrict No. 5, R. W. Maxson, Subdistrict No. 7, H. H. Willard; Subdistrict No. 8, Arthur Vaughn. W. S. Watson was secretary.

During the above mentioned meeting it was decided to call a special school election for the purpose of voting on the consolidation of the rural independent school districts in Des Moines Township. The consolidation was to include all of Des Moines Township except the South ½ of Section 31, Section 32, the West ½ of Section 33, plus 40 more acres of Section 33. The special election was held April 29, 1916, with 108 persons voting. There were 62 "yes" votes and 46 "no" votes cast on the proposition "Shall the proposed Consolidated Independent District of Des Moines Township be established?" Another special election was held May 20, 1916, for the purpose of electing directors of the new district. Those elected were: W. E. Struthers, F. D. Woodruff, J. F. Spangler, A. W. Ralph, G. D. Struthers.

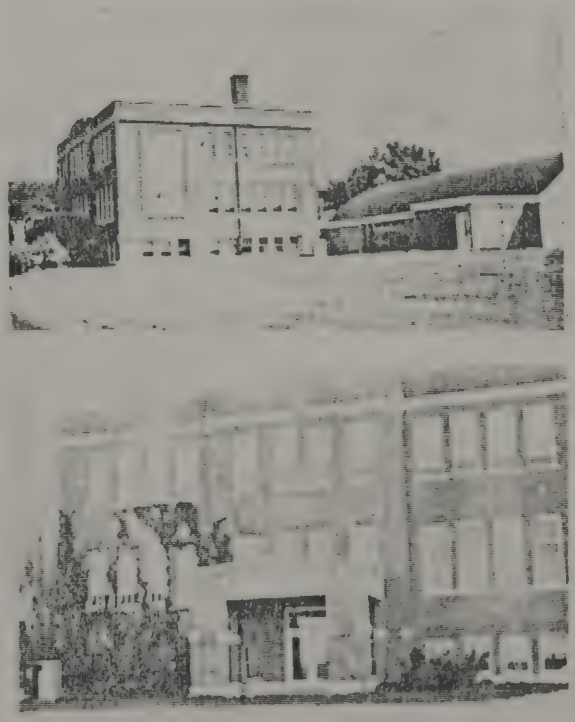
When the new district came into being July 1, 1916, W. E. Struthers was selected as president and Charles Tempelman was elected secretary

A school site was purchased and a special school bond election in the amount of $40,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school building was held September 30, 1916. The bond issue passed by a vote of 131-90. The first superintendent was John Stirling. The general building contract was awarded to B. L. Stralton of Mason City on March 26, 1917, for $30,749. Fort Dodge Plumbing and Heating was awarded the plumbing, heating, and ventilation contract for $9,135.

For some reason not apparent in the offical minutes, contracts were again let for the new building May 22, 1917. The general contract went to J. J. Peterson of Waterloo for $35,394. The building was completed and occupied during the year 1918. Another bond issue of $16,000 was passed by vote of 33-1 on February 2, 1918, for the purpose of completing and equipping the school house.

In 1919 the first senior class of five members graduated from the school. The members of this class were: Chester C. Harris, Vinton Stinton, Charles H. Lehnus, William R. Fisher, Melvin E. Struthers.

Professor Edwards resigned in 1920 and was followed by these men: F. O. Hoffman, 1920-21; W. G. Byerhoff, 1921-23; G. W. Gotke, 1922-23; L. D. Morgan, 1924-26; M. L Merritt, 1926-28; C. R. McIntire, 1928-32; Gerome M. Gehit, 1932-38; Roy E. Jennings, 1938-39; I. K. Martin, 1939-41; G. D. DeBoer, 1941-46; A. W. Norgaard, 1946-48; A. O. Garlock, 1948-51; H. L. Ericson,



PRESENT D.M.T. SCHOOL

1951-53; L. H. Propst, 1953-58; C. I. Bixler, 1958-59; Principal Paul Nagel, 1959-60.

A special $7,500 school bond issue election was held August 5, 1954, for the purpose of building a new gymnasium and the remodeling of several rooms in the original building. The vote was 134-74 in favor. Anderson Construction Co. of Emmetsburg was awarded the general contract for $56,790. Henry Zech of Pocahontas received the electrical contract for $3,420 and also the plumbing and heating contract for $7,670. The work was completed in 1955. The new gymnasium, locker rooms, and industrial arts shop added to the building made it a very attractive and servicable unit. Grades six, seven, and eight of the Rolfe Community School are now housed there.

A total of 41 senior classes graduated from the school with the last class graduating in 1959.

The school tuitioned its high school students to the Rolfe Consolidated School during the 1959-1960 school year but continued to operate as a kindergarten through grade eight unit. Board members during the final year were: President, Marvin Turley; Manley Johnson, Wesley Lehnus, Bill Bennett and George Marine. Donna Heathman was board secretary.

(Contributed by Charles Underwood)

St. Margaret's Church

The oldest records available reveal that the Catholics of the Rolfe area were ministered to by priests from Fort Dodge, and later on by the resident pastor of Gilmore City. It is recorded that a Father T. D. Sullivan came to Rolfe occasionally to say Mass and administer the Sacraments of baptism and marriage. As the Catholics of the Rolfe area increased in number, Rolfe became a mission parish of Gilmore City. Until a church was built, Mass was offered in the homes of the parishioners. Here, too, the Sacraments of baptism and marriage were administered. The home most often favored for these spiritual ministrations was that of Minnie and Dick Burns. When weather conditions permitted, children were sometimes taken to Gilmore City to be baptized as is revealed by the records of 1893.

In the fall of 1895, Father D. McKeogh became the first resident pastor of the Rolfe parish. Within a short time after his arrival, the property where the church now stands was purchased from a Mr. Scott W. Hazen on October 24, 1895. The first church was built about two years later. It was a small frame building, but it was of sufficient size to accommodate the Catholics at that time.

In May of 1897, a house and surrounding land was purchased by the trustees from a Mr. Norman Russell. The names of those trustees were Mike Crahan, H. C. Barnes and Anthony Finn. This house which became the rectory is over seventy years old, but is still in fairly good condition.

The parish of St. Margaret's became a reality through the efforts of Father McKeogh and his small band of Catholic pioneers. Though it was the work of many, one man, perhaps, contributed more generously in terms of time, assistance, and money, than any other. It was out of respect for this man, Mike Crahan, that Father McKeogh named the church St. Margaret's, in memory of Mike's mother, Margaret Crahan.

The first recorded baptism performed by Father McKeogh in Rolfe was John G. Fix, on December 15, 1895. After the first small frame church was dedicated, the first baptism was Ella Taylor on August 29, 1897. All previous baptisms were performed either in the rectory or in the homes. The first recorded marriage in St. Margaret's Church was performed by Father Joseph Murtagh, on December 27, 1902. The groom was Jacob Unsecker from Havelock, and the bride was Christine Tucking from Rolfe. The first funeral recorded was that of Margaret Frieden on September 2, 1903. The first record of a confirmation class of Rolfe children took place at Gilmore City on November 5, 1902. The Sacrament was administered to them by Bishop Garrigan of Sioux City.

The original families and individuals of St.

FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1897

Margaret's were: H. C. Barnes, William Tiernan, Mike Crahan, Jake Meisenbach, Maurice Flury, Minnie and Dick Burns, Mike Solan, Bessie Taylor, Frank Shimon Sr., John Doyle, James O'Keefe, James Fox, James Carroll, William Kelly, Anthony Finn, George Schonberger Sr., and Joe Wievel.

Father McKeogh died in 1902 and was succeeded by a Father McCauley who remained about one year. In December 1902, Father J. G. Murtagh became temporary pastor until June 1903. In June of 1903, Father D. K. Hurley was assigned to Rolfe.

On Palm Sunday, 1905, the little frame church was destroyed by fire. Under the leadership of Father Hurley, a new brick church arose in its place. The church was small but it was so constructed that it could easily be extended whenever such parish increase would make it necessary. Bishop Garrigan blessed the new structure in the fall of 1905.

Father Hurley was transferred to Akron in 1906, and Father J. G. Murtagh was reassigned to Rolfe in June 1906. When father Murtagh left Rolfe for another assignment in October 1907, in the course of the next eighteen months, four priests took care of the spiritual needs of the parish. They were Fathers E. C. Meyers, John R. Daly, P. C. Wiemann, O.S.B., and Francis McNeill.

Father J. M. Mallinger came to Rolfe in June 1909. He was the first pastor to remain over ten years.

During his tenure as pastor, three more rooms were added to the rectory. Since the parish had need of its own cemetery, land was purchased from a widow, Mrs. Fae White McEwen, on September 30, 1914. A decorative iron fence was built around the cemetery and stone pillars were erected at the entrance. It was in September 1914 that St. Margaret's parish became a corporaion and was formally accepted as a religious corporation in the State of Iowa. The first lay directors of this corporation were James Fox and H. C. Barnes.

In June 1920, Father Mallinger was assigned elsewhere, and Father George Theobald became the new pastor of St. Margaret's. The parish had grown too large for the small brick church, so under his leadership, the church was enlarged to almost double the original seating capacity. An addition was built on to the rectory and together with other repair and improvements, the rectory and church were kept in good condition. At the present time, Monsignor Theobald is pastor of St. Anthony's parish at Hospers, Iowa.

In June of 1928, Father D. A. Tewell came to Rolfe and was destined to labor among his people for thirty-one years. During Father Tewell's pastorate, many improvements were made and many innovations were introduced. Besides paying the debt incurred by the new church addition, new oil furnaces were installed in the church and the rectory. Also, an electric pipe organ, a public address system, and Stations of the Cross were

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH TODAY

ST. MARGARET'S RECTORY

new additions to the church property. Father Tewell is remembered by all for his many fine qualities, but perhaps he is remembered more than any other for his "easy going good nature, and his generosity." Father Tewell is now resigned from parish work and is presently living in the Marian Home at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The present pastor, Father G. R. Wingert, was appointed to Rolfe on February 26, 1959. The people of St. Margaret's have always cooperated with their pastor and lay directors in the maintenance and upkeep of their parish from its earliest beginnings. So it was and continues to be a fine trait of the parishioners of St. Margaret's to take pride in doing whatever may be necessary to keep their property in excellent condition.

Since 1960 the church and rectory interiors were renovated and refurnished. Many major improvements were made, but perhaps the most important to date were the rewiring of both church and rectory, redecorating, new pews and kneelers, all new light fixtures, and flooring. Among the improvements made to the rectory exterior and interior, a new oil furnace was installed, and the kitchen, utility, and bathrooms were completely remodeled. During this year of 1963, the church exterior was tuckpointed, and new eaves and downspouts replaced the old.

The cemetery has been enlarged and beautified with roadways, entrance gates, trees, and a new cross. As in the past, many of the improvements have been possible only because the parishioners pitched in and got the job done.

From existing records, the following lay directors have served or are serving as representatives of the parish: Mike Crahan, H. C. Barnes, Anthony Finn, James Fox, Bill Tiernan, J. J. Bradley, Charles Zeman, Emmett Bradley and Gene Grethen, Joe Accurso and James Triplett are the present directors.

The active organizations in St. Margaret's parish are the Ladies' Rosary Society, the Ways and Means Committee, the various committees of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the Catholic Youth Organization, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the adult and children's choirs; all of these play an active roll in the spiritual and parish life and history of St. Margaret's church.

(Contributed by the Rev. Father Wingert)

The Lutheran Church in Rolfe

It is well known that Iowa is singularly blessed with good soil, and the Rolfe area of Pocahontas County is no exception. As the territory opened up for settlement, it was not too long before Hardy Scandinavians from Denmark and Norway joined others in establishing their homes upon the good land, and they were not hesitant about inviting friends and relatives to join them.

But a new home was not their only concern. They brought with them a strong adherence to their Lutheran Heritage, and they were eager to foster the Christian Church according to their national background, even as others did in various places. Thus two Lutheran congregations came into being.

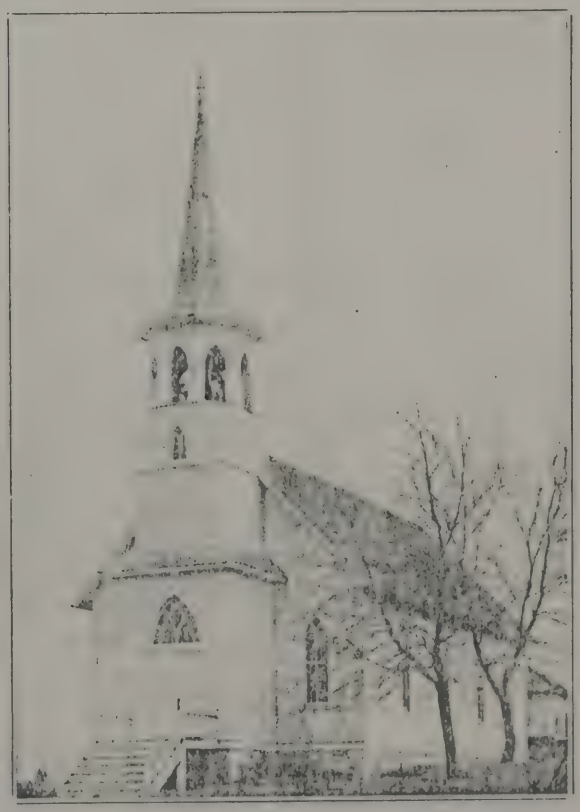
TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

The Word of God was preached by Norwegian Lutheran pastors in this community in the latter part of the 1870's, but a congregation was not established until 1887. Pastor L. O. Wigdahl from Ruthven assisted in organizing Trinity Lutheran Congregation in Rolfe. Forty souls formed the nucleus of the new organization. The charter members, including their families, were Mr. and Mrs. John Severtson, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Simonson Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John Everson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Sandvig, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Christianson, Mr and Mrs. Ingvald Gabrielson, Mr. and Mrs. Mattias Dale, and Mr. Lars M. Gunstad.

A constitution was adopted in 1889, and the first officers were: President, Pastor L. O. Wigdahl; secretary, John Severtson; deacons, John Everson, Louis Johnson and Nels Johnson; trustees, Lewis Lewison, Andrew Simonson Sr., and Peter Christianson.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1891 with Mattias Dale as superintendent and John Severtson and Tom Alvestad at teachers. It was also decided to hold one month of parochial school each summer.

Until 1901 services were held in the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methdist churches, as well as in homes throughout the congregation. But a desire for their own house of worship led to the erection of a church in 1901 at a total cost of $1,465. Charles Johnson was both architect and builder.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

About ten different pastors and one layman served Trinity through the years of its history. Pastor H. G. Engum became the first resident pastor in 1905. Only one is still living, namely, Pastor J. O. Wangberg, residing in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He came to Trinity in 1922 and continued until the merger in 1948.

Trinity always had an active Ladies Aid. It was first organized when the congregation came into being, and Mrs. John Severtson was its first president.

In 1937 the congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and all living former pastors, including L. O. Wigdahl, were present.

At a special meeting on February 9, 1948, a plan for merger with the Nain Lutheran Congregation was presented and accepted. Thus ended Trinity's sixty-one years of history.

NAIN LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

The church work among the Danish Lutherans in Rolfe dates back to 1884, although the congregation was not organized until 1894. Pastors K. Jensen, A. Horselund, and Hillerup Jorgensen preached to this group of Danes until Pastor Julius Jespersen was called as the first regular pastor in 1894, and the congregation was organized under his leadership.

NAIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1899 during the pastorate of Gudmund Grill lots were purchased from W. D. McEwen for two hundred dollars. Charles Johnson was the Architect and builder of the new house of worship erected at a total cost of a little more than $2,500. It was dedicated on May 27, 1900. A parsonage was also built at a cost of one thousand dollars.

The Ladies Aid was organized in 1896 and met monthly in the homes of members. The work in Sunday School began in 1900 with Mads Johansen, Mrs. Ole Christensen and Ben Behrendsen as the first appointed teachers. Parochial school was also started that summer by the pastor. The first Luther League came into being in 1924.

Charter members of Nain Lutheran included twelve families and their children, Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Behrendsen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Truelsen, Mr. Mads Johansen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Johansen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nielsen, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nielsen, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Frokjer, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Moller, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jensen.

The first officers of the congregation were Henry Truelsen, president; Hans W. Nielsen, secretary; and E. Buxbom, treasurer.

Under the leadership of its twelfth pastor, Emery L. Petersen, Nain Lutheran Congregation at a special meeting in February, 1948, decided to merge with the Trinity Lutheran Congregation on a 50/50 basis. Thus closed the record of the Nain Lutheran Congregation in Rolfe.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The merger of the two churches did not mean that the Lutheran Church in Rolfe was ceasing to exist. On the contrary, it was soon evident that a much larger and stronger congregation came into being, built on the foundations of the Trinity and Nain Lutheran Congregations.

By God's grace and help the new St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation took root and grew. The first service was held on April 4, 1948, in the former Nain Lutheran Church, which continued to be the home of the congregation until June 22, 1952.

By mutual agreement the pastors of both of the former congregations had resigned, but Pastor Emery Petersen continued to serve the new church for several months until Pastor Fred Jacobsen, together with his family, came from Graettinger, Iowa, to become the first pastor of the new congregation.

It was plainly evident that a growing congregation needed more room. The former Wiegman house had been purchased in June, 1948, to be used as a parsonage, and in January, 1949, the congregation voted to buy the Baldwin property as the site for the new church. Already 40% of

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

the confirmed membership had signed pledges to tithe their net income until the new church was built and paid for.

A building committee was elected in January, 1950, including Mrs. Esther Burris, Roger Ives, Guy Kerns, Pastor Jacobsen, C. F. Orwig, Mrs. O. G. Ryen, Telmer Sime, Andrew Simonson, Roy Simonson, Chris Sorensen, Melvin Thorsen and Henry Wickre. An architect, Thorwald Thorson of Forest City, Iowa, was engaged in April, and by October, 1950, proposed plans for the church were accepted. Ground-breaking services followed an Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951, and the Cornerstone was laid on October 7, 1951. the construction of Lannon Stone called for 300 tons of this material.

The church bell at Nain, purchased in 1899 at a cost of $56.15, was moved to and installed in the tower of the new church. It is a tone "A" bell wieghing 780 pounds.

On June 22, 1952, 327 persons attended the first service in the new church, and then on September 7, 1952, the new beautiful structure was dedicated to the Glory of God. It had been erected at a total cost of about $170,000.

In the spring of 1953 Pastor Jacobsen moved to Albert Lea, Minnesota. Then Alton Christensen, a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, to be ordained in June, accepted the call to become the second pastor at St. Paul's. He served until June, 1956, when he moved to Houston, Texas. The third pastor at St. Paul's, the Rev. Irving N. Tange, was called from a congregation near Denver, Colorado. With his family he came to Rolfe in November, 1956, and at this date is still the resident pastor.

The numerical growth of the congregation levelled off with the changing times. As numerous farms were absorbed by others and job opportunities lessened a bit, the population of the Rolfe community decreased somewhat, and this has also affected our churches noticeably. The present membership totals about 370 baptized persons and 240 confirmed members.

The St. Paul's Congregation is grateful for the opportunity it has had to be a part of the Rolfe community and to share in its history and development. May both our community and churches continue to grow in a manner befitting a Christian society.

(Contributed by the Reverend I. N. Tange)

The Methodist Church

In the year of 1861 a few settlers came to the Des Moines River near Old Rolfe and platted the little town of Milton.

It was there, on Sunday morning, April 10, 1863, that Frederick A. Metcalf met with a group of settlers in the schoolhouse and held a Methodist service. He evidently met with encouragement for he continued his preaching services until the storms of winter would not permit further meeting. But Brother Metcalf must have coninued working through the winter for on May 8, 1864, a class of eight members and probationers was organized. The little church was taken into the Algona Circuit of the Des Moines Annual Conference with Wm. Holbrook as pastor.

At the annual conference that fall W. S. Darwin was appointed to the Algona circuit and preached at Milton once in four weeks with the other Sundays being filled by Rev. Metcalf. About 20 joined the church during that year. No preacher was supplied for 1865 so Rev. Metcalf continued to serve at Milton as they continued to call it the county seat. It was during that year that a class of nine was organized at West Bend,

The Milon Circuit was organized in 1866 by the Presiding Elder, D. Lamont. Stewards elected

by the quarterly conference were E. D. Seeley, Edward Hammond, and M. Tilley. There were 25 members and 10 probationers. The salary of the pastor was set at $200 with Milton providing $120, and the churches of Palo Alto County, $80. The fourth quarterly conference held that year listed John Lothian as an exhorter. At the time of the first quarterly conference in the 1866-67 conference year there were three organized churches on the circuit—Rolfe, West Bend and Homestead. An attempt to produce a congregation at Emmetsburg failed.

The pastor's report for this quarterly conference read: "Rolfe is the principal and only growing work on the circuit. There are four probationers ready to be admitted into membership, two having joined during the quarter. None have died or permanently left during this period.

"A class is formed at each of my three appointments. The Rolfe class meets weekly. Many of the members here apparently keep a daily walk with God, but many are growing careless. Membership at Rolfe and Homestead is about 40 counting the probationers, that of West Bend only four. I hope to soon have a congregation at King's settlement. I preach every two weeks at each of my present appointments."

During those early years, bad weather closed all the Sunday Schools during the winter months. In May of 1872 the Northwest Iowa Conference was formed, including Northwest Iowa and all of Dakota Territory. There were two districts—Fort Dodge and Sioux City, with 23 preachers. The Rev. F. Franklin was sent to the Pocahontas charge which included Rolfe, West Bend, Rush Lake (Laurens), Powhatan (Plover), Coopertown and Prairie Creek. Services were also held that year at the Strong Schoolhouse and at Pickerel Lake.

During the early years, the Mission Board was contributing to the support of the church. Some years $50, other years $75. In 1874 there was a drouth and grasshoppers came through Palo Alto County. The Rolfe Circuit voted to give the $75 they received from the Mission Board that year to Emmetsburg.

During the Pastorate of Rufus Fancer from 1873-75, a parsonage was built at Rolfe, but the church services continued to be held in the courthouse. The Rev. Wm. McCready served from 1875-77 and held one 10 week revival meeting which added 30 names to the church roll in that one winter. Revival meetings were conducted nearly every winter in most of the churches on the circuit.

When the Rev. W. A. Richards came as pastor in the fall of 1881, a lot of changes were taking place. The county seat had been moved from Rolfe to Pocahontas Center; a railroad had gone through south of the town and another west, crossing four miles southwest of Rolfe, where a town was springing up and many were moving to the railway where the new town of Rolfe Junction was being started. So, in 1882 John Fraser, E. D. Seeley and A. H. Hancher were appointed to incorporate the Rolfe society and ask the conference to empower the pastor to change Rolfe Junction to Rolfe and Powhatan to Plover. A committee was appointed to arrange to either sell or move the parsonage.

In 1883, the parsonage was moved from Old Rolfe to New Rolfe with most of the household goods of Rev. W. A. Richards inside. This parsnage was later sold and the proceeds used to

OLD METHODIST CHURCH, BUILT IN 1884

start a fund for a new church. Church services at this time were being held in the schoolhouse, with the Methodists and Presbyterians alternating Sundays. The Sunday school was a union of the Methodists and Presbyterians with a Presbyterian superintendent.

Plans for the new church began in 1884. After its completion, the Methodist Sunday School was organized with M. Lathrop the first superintendent. The original parsonage was where Fred Smith now lives and the original frame church stood about where the present brick structure stands. The frame church was moved half its width by the cyclone where it stood. Of course the belfry was not quite plumb after the cyclone.

Another parsonage was built during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Artman who served through the years 1888-1891. Rev. Artman was a good carpenter who also built two other houses in Rolfe. The present brick church was built during the years 1907-1911 while Rev. Mark Masters was pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. C. S. Burnette 1914-1918, the present parsonage was built.

Records are skimpy during the early 1900's. Pastors during these years included O. S. Bryan, 1899-91; H. K. Hastings, 1901-1903; C. F. Johnson, 1903-1904; P. C. Money, 1904-1907; Mark Masters, 1907-1911; J. A. Kettle, 1911-14; C. S. Burnette, 1914-18, 1918-21; A. H. Bryan, 1921-23; T. E. Hoon, J. H. Walker, 1923-28; W. A. Wilkinson, 1928-31; T. S. Bassett, 1931-35

Rev. Mark Masters built the church, J. A. Kettle saw that the building was paid for, and Rev. Burnette built the present parsonage. Mrs. Kettle and Mrs. Burnette live in Friendship Haven today as does Mrs. J. H. Walker. Rev. Bassett was a wonderful pastor during the depression years. Dr. C. W. Tompkins, now head of Friendship Haven, came in 1935.

After Rev. Tompkins came Rev. W. B. Lease, 1938-39; W. J. Plummer, 1939-42; our present District Superintendent, Dr. C. R. Buckwalter, served from 1942-46; H. V. Barts, 1946-49; and A. C. Peterson, 1949-54.

During Rev. Plummer's pastorate the merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church was completed. As far as the local church was concerned, the biggest change was in the merger of the Ladie's Aid Society, the Woman's Home and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society into what is now known as the Woman's Society for Christian Service. Mrs. H. B. Brinkman was the first president of the W.S.C.S. in Rolfe. This new society was an almost complete take-over of the women's program as was organized by the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South. New articles of incorporation had to be written for the new church which is now known as the Methodist Church, the term Episcopal having been dropped.

On Sunday, May 4, 1941, dedication of the new Wicks pipe organ was held.

With World War II came a shortage of ministers for local charges, many acting as chaplains in service, so it was suggested that Rolfe and Bradgate be made one charge temporarily. To this the Rolfe church agreed. Rev. C. R. Buckwalter served the merged charges. These were days of war and rationing but our pastor met the challenge and was a wonderful pastor for both churches.

During the pastorate of Rev. Bartz, the present communion tables were installed. The year that

PRESENT METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. A. G. Peterson came to us the Northwest and Upper Iowa Conferences were merged into the North Iowa Conference. In the fall of 1951 a junior choir was organized under the capable leadership of Mrs. N. A. Wilson, who still is directing this choir of fine juniors. During Rev. Peterson's pastorate the two front entrances were remodeled.

From 1954-1958, Rev. Otis M. McQuarry was our pastor. Under his leadership a memorial committee was established to receive, record and help guide in the selection of all memorial gifts. Rev. Milton S. Schaper was pastor 1958-1962, and Rev. A. Keith Hauser followed in June of 1962.

(Contributed by Rev. Keith Hauser)

Rolfe Presbyterian Church

It may be a surprise to some of you to know that at one time this church was known as "The Second Presbyterian Church of Rolfe." The reason for this was that a church had been organized at McKnight's Point, a short distance north of the present junction of Highways 44 and 222, east of the Des Moines River. This was before 1860, and services were held in the log cabin of Edward McKnight.

In 1860 services were transferred to what we now call Old Rolfe, being held in the then new court house, later in the school house, and the church was known as the "Unity Presbyterian Church." With the coming of the railroads and the establishment of the present town of Rolfe where the railroads crossed, a church was organized in the new town and called "The Second Presbyterian Church," and the Unity Church evidently dwindled away. However, a church building was erected at McKnight's Point, at what time I do not know, but in which Rev. McEwen held occasional services.

The last pastor of the Unity Church was the Rev. L. C. Gray, who presided at the organization of this church on October 31, 1880. To avoid confusion with the old Unity Church it was decided to call this church "The Second Presbyterian Church." However, during the pastorate of Rev. Burdick, in 1901, we re-incorporated and changed the name to "The Presbyterian Church of Rolfe."

As stated, this church was organized on October 31, 1880, with the following as charter members: Robert Struthers and his wife, Susannah Struthers and their daughter, Mrs. Ellen Mather, James J. Bruce and his wife, Mary J. Bruce, Alexander McEwen and his wife, Delilah McEwen, Robert Lothian and his son, James B. Lothian, Robert Anderson, Peter Williams, George Henderson, Joseph Clasen, Emiline Broadwell.

The first ruling elders elected were Robert Struthers, J. J. Bruce and Robert Lothian. Deacons elected were Alexander McEwen, George Henderson and Robert Anderson. Rev. L. C. Gray served as minister until April 15, 1882, holding services in homes and wherever opportunity offered. The first annual report showed contributions of $109.84. Several years later he visited our church and preached for us.

In May 1883, Matthew C. Wood, a theological student, came to serve the church during the summer. Services were held in the hall upstairs in the building then known as the Tremont Hotel.

During this time a Sunday School was organized with W. C. Kennedy as the first Superintendent, a man who up to the time of his death in 1920 never lost his interest in the welfare of the church and Sunday School.

Early in 1884, Rev. S. C. Head of the Pomeroy Church was called to supply our church on a part time basis. By this time the Methodists had erected a church building and they divided their time with our church which seemed to work out very well. During Rev. Head's ministry the session was composed of Ruling Elders Struthers, Kennedy and Spence. Mr. Bruce, who was the first clerk of sessions, withdrew from our church to join the Methodist Church and Mr. Spence was chosen to succeed him as elder and clerk of session.

In May 1887, the energetic Rev. George H. Duty came to us as our first resident pastor, at which time we had a membership of twenty-five. He not only had the Rolfe church to look after, but saw to the organization of churches in West Bend, Plover and Gilmore City. He also endeavored to organize churches in Pocahontas and Laurens, which were not successful at that time. During the years of 1888 and '89 Mr. Duty saw to the erection of church buildings, in Rolfe, West Bend, Plover and Gilmore City. Sunday was no day of rest for him, for example he would preach in Rolfe in the morning, at West Bend in the afternoon and at Plover in the evening. The next Sunday he would divide his time between Rolfe and Gilmore City. Once while driving between West Bend and Plover a storm came up and lightning killed his horse, but did him no harm. He also saw to the erection of the manse which we have so often remodeled.

On December 14, 1888, the first new members were received into the new church. Mr. Duty resigned in November 1890, but came back to have a part in the dedication of our present building in 1907, and was also here for our 45th anniversary in 1925. He died at Montrose, Iowa, on December 26, 1932. It was during his pastorate that the Ladies Excelsior Society was organized, now known as the United Presbyterian Women which through all the years has been a wonderful force in the work of our church.

In March 1891, Rev. A. C. Keeler came to us

from Battle Creek, Iowa. He was a very likeable man, preached good sermons and the church made a good growth during his pastorate. During this time the community made a vigorous effort to secure the location of Buena Vista College here but it transpired that we were being used to make Storm Lake work harder. The Christian Endeavor Society came into being at this time and for many years was a splended organization of the younger people of the church. After a little over two years Rev. Keeler resigned to take a church at Minneapolis, Kansas.

In September 1893, Rev. George Ainslie came to us from the church at Dexter, Iowa, and remained here for four years. Though in poor health at the time Rev. Ainslie was able to be present at the dedication of our present church building in 1907.

Rev. W. Rollin McCaslin came to this church March 13, 1898. While he remained with us only two years, his ministry was very successful, nearly fifty new members being added to the church.

Rev. Newman H. Burdick came to us in August 1900 from Rochester, Minn. He, too, remained with us but two years. He went from here to a church in Omaha, but shortly afterward went to the church in Helena, Montana, where he remained 18 years. His death occured shortly after he resigned the pastorate there. Rev. Burdick was an excellent sermonizer of the evangelistic type.

January 1, 1903, Rev. E. Allen Enders became our pastor. He remained with us only about ten months when he resigned to go as a missionary to India. He, however, had a very successful pastorate, considering the short time he was here.

During the pastorate of Rev. Burdick sentiment began to develop looking to the erection of a new church building, but it was not until after the coming of Rev. W. H. McEwen that our plans materialized. Rev. McEwen came to us in April 1904 from Battle Creek, Iowa, and it was during his pastorate that our pesent building was erected and dedicated in the fall of 1907. In the summer of 1905 a very successful evangelistic four weeks service was held under the direction of Rev. Oscar Lowry in which all the churches of the town united, which resulted in many additions to all the churches participating. The many additions to our church made it evident that a larger and better building was urgently needed, and in the spring of 1906 the congregation enthusiastically raised funds and the foundation was laid that fall, and as stated the building we now occupy was dedicated in the fall of 1907.

Rev. McEwen remained our pastor until November 1910, when he resigned to go to Portal, North Dakota. He was a man greatly loved by all who knew him and it was a great pleasure to us that he was with us when we observed our 45th anniversary.

For nearly two years after Rev. McEewn left us we were without a regular pastor. A man named C. P. Milne came from Manitoba, Canada, representing himself to be a minister from the Scotland Presbyterian Church. He preached a few times in the Gilmore City church, but

OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1888-89

when he learned the Rolfe church was vacant, he made it known to us that he was available. It culminated in our extending him a call. When the call was presented to Presbytery he was asked for his credentials. He stated that he had sent to Canada for them and asked for more time which was granted him. However, Presbytery started investigating and finally learned he had no ministerial credentials whatsoever, and it was finally ordered that he no longer be allowed to occupy our pulpit. He went from here to a church in Nebraska and from there to a church in Minnesota, after which we heard no more of him. As far as preaching good sermons he had few equals, and it was little wonder that for a time we were hypnotized by him.

After the two years of uncertainty through which the church had passed, a call was extended to Rev. A. Z. McGogney, who came to us from Paola, Kansas, and was with us for three and a half years.

Rev R. D. Echlin came to us during the two years we were at war with Germany, following his presidency of Buena Vista College. He proved to be the right man to bring about a restoration of harmony in the church. After leaving us he served churches in Perry, Cedar Falls and Nevada at which latter town he was stricken with a heart attack and passed away suddenly.

This is an appropriate time to call attention to Mr. Chas. H. Moon and his wife who for many years was our faithful organist. He was our S.S. superintendent for many years, choir director, sexton and ruling elder. He was also mayor of the town and justice of the peace. But the achievement of which he was most proud was the fact that almost single handed he raised the funds with which to purchase the organ for the church.

We come now to more familiar times for many of us. On December 15, 1919, Rev. J. P. Lester came to us from Carroll, Iowa, and remained with us for more than eleven years. His faithful work in our church and community, hampered as he was with semi-deafness, will long be remembered with affection by the present older members of our church.

Our next pastor was Rev. C. Paul Carlson who stayed with us two years during the depression times, which made it hard for everyone, members and ministers alike. Rev. Carlson went from here to the Algona church and from there to a church in St. Paul. When World War II began he entered the Army as a chaplain.

On July 1, 1934, Rev. H. A. Sinning came to us from the Schaller church and remained with us for six years. Rev. Sinning and his wife are still well remembered for their faithful work in the church by many of us. They went from here

PRESENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1907

to a country church near Osage, Iowa, where they remained for nearly twenty years. During Rev. Sinning's pastorate there the church showed a remarkable growth in membership and gifts to the benevolence causes of the church were outstanding.

Rev. W. F. Schneck came to us from Highland, Wisconsin, in June 1940, and remained with us until November 1949. He is too well known to all of us and too well respected by us to make it necessary for me to add further emconiums. He was a faithful pastor and a good friend to all with whom he came in contact.

In June 1950, Rev. Martin J. Prehn came to us from Oregon, Illinois, with his wife Grace and their two sons, John and Bruce. During his stay, our church contributed generously to the Presbyterian camp at Okoboji and completed the remodeling of the church kitchen. In January of 1957 he and his family moved to Manchester, Iowa, where he had accepted a call.

In the spring of 1957 the Rev. William B. Nelson was called to be pastor of our church. His wife Ruth was received to be a commissioned church worker in Fort Dodge Presbytery. During his stay more improvements were added to the chuch basement. In 1958 a new organ was purchased through a memorial gift.

In January of 1963 the Nelsons and their daughter Faith, born during their stay in Rolfe, left for a new field of service in Delta, Colorado.

The church is at present without a pastor and the work of the church is being carried on by the elected officers.

Presently serving in official capacities are: Trustees—George Shriner, Orval Heathman, Jerry Robinson, E. P. Brinkman, Virgil Ricklefs, Everett Rickard and Alvin Vaughn. Elders—Joe Lehman, William Brinkman, Mildred Ives, Louis Wilson, Vera Olerich, LeRoy Nelson, Don Cleal, Earl Ives and Edna Marcum.

(This article is based on a history originally written in 1955 by J. T. Grant)

Glimpses of the Past

A collection of personal experiences

1. Last Indian Battle
2. Last Buffalo Hunt
3. Wagon Box Boat
4. Moorty's Mansion
5. Prairie Fire
6. Pioneer Tin Peddler
7. Letter to a Homesteader
8. My Most Unforgettable Character
9. Letter from a Soldier
10. Cooperation
11. The Hayknife and I
12. Writings of Frank L. MacVey
13. Remember When

The Last Indian Battle

The story of the last Indian battle in Pocahontas County is told in the Christmas number of the Rolfe Reveille of 1908. The battle took place in the Rolfe vicinity.

The account was written by William D. McEwen, editor and proprietor of The Pocahontas County Times, and originally appeared in that paper under the date of Old Rolfe, May 18, 1876. He obtained his facts during the year of 1858 and 1859 from Major William W. Williams, sutler of the fort at Fort Dodge, when the United States troops were there and the fight occurred. His account in complete detail is as follows:

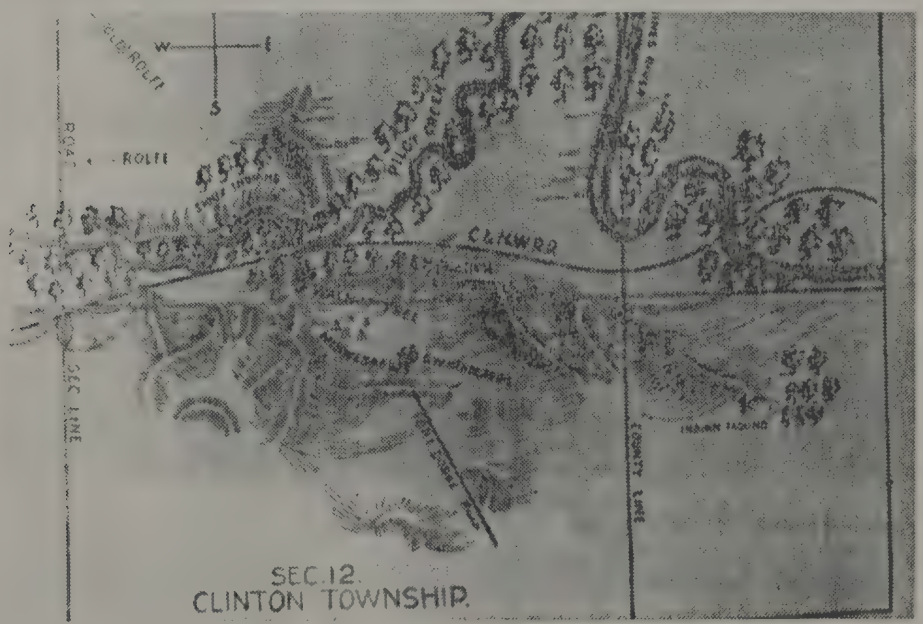
"Nearly a quarter century ago (1853 or 1854), when Fort Dodge was a military post occupied by government troops, and before any white man had settled in Pocahontas county, a battle was fought between a band of Winnebago and Sioux Indians that, for bloodthirsty determination, has seldom been surpassed in the unwritten legends of those savage tribes. It was in the spring of the year, and the place where this sanguinary conflict occurred was on the south side of Pilot Creek, on section one, Clinton township, near the bridge of the old Fort Dodge road on the farm of A. H. Malcolm. Directly west of the bridge, and a little distance up the stream, lies a plateau or piece of table land with bluffs on the south. At that time a strip of timber skirted the stream, that increased in density until it reached the foot of the bluff and then terminated abruptly.

"Here there had encamped a band of about thirty Winnebago Indians from the vicinity of Mankato, Minn., who had been engaged in a hunting and trapping expedition, and encamped at this place to feast and prepare their furs for market. They were within a day's journey of the trading post at Fort Dodge, were on friendly terms with the whites, from whom they apprehended no danger, and believing that their enemies, the Sioux, were not in the vicinity, they relaxed their usual vigilence.

"Eighteen Sioux warriors under their chief, Cou-sta-wa, or Big Tree, had been hunting on the Little Sioux river, in the neighborhood of where now stands the town of Sioux Rapids, and learning of the band of Winnebagoes on the Des Moines river, determined to cross the country, take them by surprise and adorn their belts with scalps of their foes. The chief of the band, as his name indicates, was a large, powerful warrior, and had been the leader in many a bloody fight. Having been once wounded by the bullet of a white man, he ever afterwards, cherished for him the most intense hatred, and never allowed an opportunity to pass without wreaking vengeance on him and his friends, the Winnebagoes.

"Ink-pa-du-ta, the bloodthirsty savage, who with his band massacred the white settlers at Spirit Lake in 1857, was one of Cou-sta-wa's warriors and acquired his intense hatred of the whites from him. He, too, was active in urging the attack upon the Winnebagoes.

"They crossed the country from the Little Sioux river by the way of Swan Lake, until they struck the head waters of Pilot creek; then, following the course of the stream unobserved, they discovered the location of their foes. Guided, doubtless, by the smoke of the campfires they stealthly approached with in two miles. Here they concealed



SITE OF LAST INDIAN BATTLE

themselves in what is known as Harvey's grove, and sent out two of their warriors to ascertain the number and exact position of the Winnebagoes. The night was well advanced before their scouts returned. Their report must have been favorable as a satisfactory grunt from Cou-sta-wa announced the attack would be made that very night.

"The water in the creek was high, and Cou-sta-wa, with revenge sagacity, divided his warrior; six of them led by Ink-pa-du-ta, crossed Pilot Creek and approached the foe from the north, while he with the other warriors descended on the south side to cut off their retreat. He evidently thought that the Winnebagoes, taken by surprise, would flee at the first attack and make for the trading post.

"In this he was correct, but the result was not as he had anticipated. The ground had been examined and the attack well planned. The moon, though far in the wane, shone brightly, pointing out to the wary Sioux the exact position of the sleeping Winnebagoes. The night was far advanced when the Sioux crept up within thirty yards of their sleeping foes. Here they paused, awaiting the signal of their chief. Just at this moment one of the Winnebago warriors arose and quickly gave the alarm to his tribe. The Sioux, finding themselves discovered, commenced firing. The Winnebagoes, taken by surprise, and not knowing the number of their foes, thought only of safety, and commenced retreating along the edge of the bluff. Here they were met by Cou-sta-wa and his warriors. Finding their retreat was cut off, they commenced fighting with the desperation of despair. Cou-sta-wa, seeing the confusion, and knowing full well that one half of the Winnebagoes must have fallen at the first fire, rushed with his warriors upon those who remained. It became a hand to hand fight.

"At length one, two, three of the bravest of the Winnebago warriors met their death at the hands of Cou-sta-wa, when a shot from one of the wounded Winnebagoes laid him low. With a hideous yell the Sioux warrior fell to rise no more. The Sioux, seeing their chief fall, now commenced falling back, carrying their dead, for the Sioux will die rather than leave any of their dead in the hands of their foes. Ten of the Winnebagoes were killed or died of their wounds, while only four of them escaped without being wounded.

"How many of the Sioux were killed was never known. But four Indian graves were found by some of the early settlers in 1857, on the bank of Pilot Creek, covered with bark and in good state of preservation; these were no doubt the resting places of the warriors killed in this fight. The skeletons of three more were discovered by W. S. Fegelese, when trapping at Swan Lake in the winter of 1858. He informed the writer that the skull bone of one was very large and nearly an inch in thickness; that the shank bones were three inches longer than his own and all that remained of the skeleton showed that it had belonged to an Indian of colossal stature. May we not, therefore, justly conclude that it was none other than the skeleton of the Sioux Chief, Con-sta-wa?"

(This concludes the story written by William D. McEwen. However, the 1908 Reveille continues with its own story about other Indians along the Des Moines river and includes a substantial quote from J. J. Bruce on the subject written in 1880. The Reveille's entire story is as follows:)

"After the battle at Pilot Creek the Indians who were engaged in it again returned to their reservaions, the Sioux to Dakota and the Winnebagoes to Minnesota. In the years that followed until April, 1880, bands of the Winnebagoes would occasionally return along the west branch of the Des Moines river as far south as the mouth of Pilot Creek.

"In the month of November 1879 about forty Pottawattamie Indians were camping along the Des Moines river, near the northeast part of the county, and while engaged in hunting and trapping, investigated many of the larders in that neighborhood. 'Lo the poor Indian' is a good investigator of the white man.

"Again in April 1880, about fifty Winnebagoes and Pottawattamies temporarily encamped near the bridge over the Des Moines river, a short distance above the mouth of Pilot Creek and near Old Rolfe, that until four years previous had been the county seat. J. J. Bruce, correspondent of the Pocahontas Times of April 15 and 22, 1880, wrote as follows in regard to them:

"Our Winnebago and Pottawattamie Indians have moved down the river, Henry M. Rice, the chief of the band is a very intelligent fellow. Several of the men are intelligent, use good language and dress in civilized style. We should judge that a number of them have white man's blood in their veins.

"'They have in their number a Winnebago warrior who was over this ground in 1854, and points out the battlefield between the Sioux and Winnebagoes on Pilot Creek in 1854, and gives the scenes enacted under some of the trees in those early days, pointing out the tree where some warrior lost his scalp.

"'On this occasion the Winnebago warrior and some of his friends visited at the Des Moines river bridge, met W. D. McEwen, Robert Struthers and others to whom he related some incidents of the battle. Mr. McEwen was at this time treasurer of the county, and though he appointed a day for him to go with the old Indian to view the battlefield and get his description of the conflict as he remembered it, unexpected business matters prevented him from keeping the engagement.

"'The battle between the Sioux and Winnebagoes at Pilot Creek was the last contest that occurred between the Indians on the soil of Iowa.' "

This battle was on the old A. H. Malcolm farm, three miles east of Rolfe.

The Last Buffalo Hunt

A hundred years ago this summer the last buffalo chase in Pocahontas county occurred. The animal was spotted at Old Rolfe and the hunt ensued. The Christmas number of The Rolfe Reveille of 1908 gives full details:

"On August 20, 1863, the last buffalo seen in Pocahontas county was chased and killed by W. H. Hait assisted by Orlando Slosson, Robinson Gordon and Abiel Stickney.

"Mrs. Charles Jarvis, whose husband that year was running Mr. Hait's sawmill and with her living in his home, was first to see this one in the distance. On going to milk the cows at the barn in the morning before breakfast she found them missing, and viewing the country around to see where they were, her eyes fell on a strange looking object capering on a little knoll on section 22, about one and one-half miles northwest of the court house, that awakened her surprise. Mr. Hait was in the court house at this time, and when he returned home for breakfast and his attention was called to it he recognized it as a buffalo.

"Mr. Hait hurriedly partook of some breakfast and then began to prepare for the chase by summoning to his assistance the men named above. Three things were needed—fleet horses, good weapons and ammunition. In the court house were some old Springfield army muskets, but there was no ammunition suitable for them. The only ammunition available was in the form of some little cartridges for a small (No. 32) revolver owned by Mr. Hait. As it was deemed advisable that each man should have a loaded weapon, the muskets were loaded as best be with that kind of ammunition, and while Mr. Hait took his revolver, each of his assistants was armed with a musket. Unfortunately suitable horses were as scarce as the weapons, there being but one horse available that could run as fast as a buffalo. Happily this one belonged to Mr. Hait, and he mounted it while the others took such as they could get.

"As the buffalo was capering with manifest enjoyment, they did not plan to flank or surround him, but started off in high glee expecting to give him a general broadside that would lay him low; but when they had proceeded a short distance the buffalo perceived them and avoided the broadside by quitting his capering, turning tail and speeding away in a northwesterly direction. The chase was now begun with all possible earnestness, each hunter urging his steed to make his utmost speed.

"Mr. Hait, who was riding a horse bred in Kentucky and one of the fleetest ever brought to this county, was soon a considerable distance ahead of the others, and it became apparent that his steed was the only one in the lot that could run as fast as the buffalo. After a chase of two miles or more he overtook the buffalo and galloping by his side, at a distance of one rod, he fired in quick succession as many shots as he could from his little revolver, aiming at the heart of the animal.

"When the third wound had been inflicted the buffalo became enraged and charging furiously at the steed of his pursuer, compelled Mr. Hait to beat a hasty retreat. His retreat took the form of a semi-circle, and the buffalo followed Mr. Hait until his companions arrived, when each of them fired a shot as he had opportunity. About the only effect of these shots was to lead the buffalo to attack each man as he inflicted a wound. One of the men in his effort to avoid the charge of the buffalo, dropped and lost his musket in the grass.

"Mr. Hait having reloaded, and seeing the danger of his companions who were scarcely able to keep out of his way when pursued by the enraged brute, for the purpose of attracting him from them, again rode close by and fired another series of shots at his heart. This was the crisis or turning point in the battle with this buffalo. The buffalo did not now attack Mr. Hait as before but sought shelter from his pursuers and relief from the oppressive heat by running in a westerly direction to the center of a large slough. All the men now realized the danger connected with their undertaking. The retreat of the buffalo was a source of great relief, affording them time to reload their weapons and give their exhausted steeds a few moments of greatly needed rest.

"The battle after this point took the form of skirmishes in as many as four or five sloughs, each one being some distance further westward. In these skirmishes in the sloughs, the men would go as near to the buffalo as they could safely with their horses and firing at him, he would charge them, compel them to retreat and then seek another one further west.

"At last the buffalo became too weak and weary to charge upon his pursuers and finding they could not kill him outright, they drove him back about a half-mile when, exhausted and dying, he lay down on that part of the southwest quarter of section 25 Powhatan township. When he lay down Orlando Slosson ventured close to him and fired two more shots into him after which he soon expired. About three hours had been occupied in the chase, and the place where he fell was about five miles northwest of Old Rolfe.

"Mr. Hait and two of the men now returned home for a team and left Slosson to guard their game and enable them to find the place where he was lying. The latter, however, became very dry, and going some distance in search of a stream of running water, lost his bearing and was vain-

ly trying to find the buffalo, now concealed from view at a distance by the tall grass of the prairie in the midst of which he was lying, when his companions returned with the team. By following his trail in the grass the buffalo was finally located.

"This buffalo was a very large one and his weight was estimated at 1400 pounds. His horns were not very long but were very strong, being fully three inches in diameter at the base and each had seventeen rings. They removed his hide and the hump of lean meat on the top of the neck and shoulders. The latter was about the size of the drum of an old fasioned cook stove, weighed over one hundred pounds, and being divided among the settlers who lived in the vicinity of Old Rolfe, furnished them a good, tender steak as long as they were able to keep it in the hot weather.

"This was the last buffalo known to have grazed on the prairies of this county. This largest of American game, like the Indian to whom he was the principal means of subsistence, is fast passing away at the approach of civilized man. In the winter of 1881 and 1882 there were killed in this country 80,000 of these noble creatures. At this time where remains only a few small herds of them and they are in the region of the country drained by the head waters of the Missouri river west of the Black Hills. In a very few years the wild buffalo will live only in books that contain his history."

The hunt ended by what is now the Roy Simonson farm.

The Wagon Box Boat

By Anna Pollock

Cattle grazed on the prairies of northern Iowa three fourths of a century ago. They obtained their drinking water from the ponds, creeks and river streams in the locality.

One day our cattle strayed across the river and failed to return at milking time in the evening. That year we had bought a new wagon with a nicely painted and tight wagon box on it.

It was the best looking farm vehicle in the neighborhood and we were proud of it. We had a span of good horses hitched to it and my father, with our faithful Shepherd dog Hunter running along beside the wagon, drove out on the open prairie to round up the cattle and bring them home. As they were not in the usual place, he realized they had waded into the river to drink or to get away from the continuous switching of flies away with their tails. To make matters worse they had crossed to the other side of the stream. No calling "Come Boss", "Come Boss" would induce them to recross the river.

The horses were unhitched and tied to the wagon wheels. The new wagon box was removed from the running gears and pulled to the river's edge. Then two poles were cut from the timber close at hand. These were used for oars on the wagon box boat.

With the aid of Hunter, who swam the river, the cattle were herded back to the water's edge and swam across it, homeward bound. They were seemingly glad to get back to familiar places. Old Hunter and the new wagon box played very important roles in that pioneer experience.

The Cattle Herder or Moorty's Mansion

By Anna Pollock

Moorty was a tall, lean, blonde, good looking Scandinavian. He had come to America in an early day to seek his fortune and to build a mansion for his sweetheart, Mary Ann, whom he had left in the old country.

After an ocean trip lasting five or six weeks he arrived in New York harbor, passed the immigration tests and requirements at Ellis Island and eventually set foot in northern Iowa. Unlike most of his native countrymen he was not ambitious but spent much of his time musing, humming and whittling. He had been a cavalry man in the army and knew how to ride well. He took much pride in keeping his saddle and boots polished and limber by rubbing them with lard, kerosene or Neats Foot Oil.

It was while he was whittling on a boot jack that his knife slipped and struck one of his eyes causing him to lose the sight thereof. This became a handicap in many ways.

Though not being a labor loving man, yet he must do something to earn a living and save something for the mansion for Mary Ann.

In those years farms were small and far between but the wide expanse of prairie was bountiful with grass and was dotted with creeks and sloughs affording good pasture for the neighborhoods farmers cattle. Moorty obtained an Indian pony and became the community cattle herder, a job for which he was well qualified.

Here he could sing and whittle to his hearts content and put his Indian pony through military maneuvers.

Every night each farmer came after his cows and after milking them again in the morning, returned them to the herd to be in Moorty's care during the day. The young cattle were usually left in a corral near the herder's shack at night.

The farm families took turns by the week filling his dinner pails for each day's meals. The creeks and sloughs were his natures bathtubs and laundry facilities.

Not much money was in circulation in those days and Moorty's salary was small. He had plenty of time to draw blue prints of his mansion and to try to figure out how to make easy money.

Every farmer milked cows, made butter which he packed in firkins and put into the cave until fall when it was marketed.

He would use his herd money to buy cows and rent them out to farmers on shares. At the end of three years he would get his cows back and one half of the number of calves. He figured most of the calves would be heifers and they would soon reproduce.

That is how he made his imaginary fortune. Ill luck came to some of the cattle occasionally when Black Leg took the lives of young stock in the fall, or lightning struck in the summer or blizzards caused them to perish in the winter. Strangely enough it was usually Moorty's cattle that were lost and eventually he lost track of the number he owned.

During that first summer he had little opportunity to learn the English language. Fall came, the grass was no longer green, cattle were turned into stubble fields or into the cornstalks and Moorty was out of a job.

A family offered to board him if he would help with the chores, chop wood, carry water, fill the woodbox and do other odd jobs around the place.

By conversing with the neighbors he gradually picked up a few words in the English language. The debating society held in the schoolhouse afforded a wonderful source of information.

Some of the subjects for debate were for wisdom and others for entertainment. Samples included were "Resolved there is more pleasure in anticipation than in realization," "Resolved that a smoky stove is more desireable than a scolding wife." "Resolved that muskrat skins could be used for change instead of money."

The last named subject was debated with much fluent oratory which impressed Moorty so he made up tunes and hummed songs all of which ended with "Muskrat skins for change."

While singing he might be making tapers, to light the candles, kerosene lamp or even the stove fire from the newspaper SKANDENAVEN, a newspaper published in Omaha which he got every two weeks.

Or make a whirlagig out of a circular piece of paper cut around and around in a continuous strip and the center placed on pinpoint on the end of a small stick stuck into a potato cut in half and the cut half placed on the back of a hot stove. The paper coil would go around and around. He also made spinning tops from empty spools and willow whistles as soon as spring time came.

As soon as the sloughs thawed out and the grass became green in the spring the cattle herders summer job began again year after year.

Moorty's lonely life on the prairie became more interesting when he began seeing visions from heaven. He said he fell asleep one day and awoke startled by seeing none of the cattle grazing around him and his Indian pony was out of sight also. The Lord spoke to him saying "Fear not the cattle are all lying down facing the east." It was so. He found his Indian pony in the edge of the slough where the rushes brushed the flies off from him.

Week after week Moorty talked to God and to his sweetheart, Mary Ann. He often told the neighbors about his visits with Mary Ann while he was out on the prairie watching the cattle, and how God helped him guide the cattle away from the cornfields and sent rain when the sloughs dried up.

Finally in one of his visions he and Mary Ann were married on a hill top on the prairie in the presence of God and the cattle. It was a wonderful wedding. The sun shone brightly, a few white clouds with angels riding on them floated by overhead. God, himself performed the ceremony and took Mary Ann back to heaven with Him to stay until Moorty could prepare a home for her as the herder's shack was not suitable for that lovely girl.

For weeks beautiful air castles were built but winter came before they materialized.

Later Moorty was taken to the Poor House or County Farm Home near Pocahontas where he had some chores to do, wholesome food and a warm place to sleep. God had not furnished him a big mansion where he "lived like a prince" and waited day by day for Mary Ann to join him. Then he didn't feel very well for awhile and the doctor told him that she too was getting old and it would be hard for her to make the trip, that plans were being made for Moorty to go to her.

He was ready and anxious to go. Raising his feeble hands toward heaven he whispered "Mary Ann I am coming."

The Prairie Fire in October, 1873

By Anna Pollock

Prairie fires in Iowa may be a thing of the past, but in my memory they will always exist. We lived in a two room log house with an attic above and a dirt cellar beneath on section 8 Des Moines Township, Pocahontas County, in northern Iowa. It was before railroads or for that matter any kind of roads nearer than thirty miles away.

There was a small inland village about six miles to the southeast of us which was our trading post and where we went about every two weeks to get the mail and the groceries we needed or could afford to buy. This little town of Rolfe had been given a number of names before, which for various reasons did not prove satisfactory. As it was in Pocahontas County some one versed in the early history of our nation recalled the story of Captain John Smith, the English trader, in Virginia who was condemned to die at the hands of the Indian chief Powhatan, whose daughter Pocahontas saved Smith's life. The chief's daughter later married a young English planter named John Rolfe. To commemorate this historical event the town was named Rolfe and one of the townships in the county was named Powhatan. As the early settlers gradually moved in several John Smiths became residents of Pocahontas County. Mr. and Mrs. John Rolfe moved to England and established an estate which they called Varina. A small town in the western part of Pocahontas County came into existence later and is known as Varina.

This little inland town of Rolfe became known as Parvin in 1882 when the Chicago and Northwestern railroad and what is now known as the Minneapolis and Saint Louis Railroads crossed at a junction about three miles southwest of it and the new town of Rolfe sprang up there.

As we said before, at the beginning of our story, there were no roads. We hitched the horses to a lumber wagon and drove over the high spots between the sloughs which were alive with many water fowl nesting in the rushes in the spring or congregating there for homecomings and reunions in the fall.

In the winter these sloughs were covered with colonies of muskrat houses. Many pioneer trappers made good money by catching and skinning muskrats and selling the skins at from six to ten cents per pelt. A trapper usually made a fur hat or cap with flaps on the sides to pull down over his ears which he wore throughout the winter months. Other articles of apparel included in his winter wardrobe were usually red flannel underwear, a couple of pair of jeans pants, a wool shirt of home tailoring, home knit socks, felt boots and four buckle overshoes. his overcoat was probably one salvaged from Civil War days. It was of powder blue color, had a wide belt fastened with a big brass buckle embellished with the letters U.S. in very large size.

Our out buildings consisted of a long shed built of timber from the woods on the banks of the Des Moines river which was about three miles from our home. This shed was covered with straw and slough grass to keep out the cold, rain, sleet and snow. At one end of this primitive building was the department for the milk cows with a stall for the horses at the end of it; then a compartment for the hogs and lastly the chickens' dormitory. (Am just wondering if these modern ranch type houses are a revival of that architectural era).

Our buildings were in good shape to stand the storms of winter. In that month of October our wheat had been thrashed out of the stacks where it had been going through the sweat, since it was cut, bound and stacked in July or August.

One day my father took a load of wheat to Springvale (which is now called Humboldt) to have it ground into flour for our winters use. It took two or three days for he had to wait for his turn at the grist mill. He paid the miller with a toll of flour, shorts and bran.

My mother, with an infant child three weeks old and with me who was a little more than two years older, of course, stayed at home. All went well with the chores, milking and household duties until the afternoon of the third day when the wind rose to great velocity. With it came the roaring prairie fire from the vast uncultivated region northwest of us. The tall slough grass was easily kindled, the tumble weeds as large as bushel baskets flew over the firebreaks.

These fire breaks were made by plowing several rows of furrows around the haystacks which were out in the open. Around this circle of plowing was left an open space and then another circle of rows of plowing of greater circumference was made. The space between them was burned off. This sort of fire break was also made around the farm homes and buildings.

The fire came with a roar and the flames leaped as high as the tree tops, burning off the leaves and small branches. My mother ran to the cowyard, opened the bars and let the cattle and hogs out. Fortunately the horses, the wheat and the wagon had gone to the mill. Then she dragged us children out into the middle of a plowed field where she left us and gave me strict orders to stay there and mind the baby. She rushed back to the log house and carried clothing, bedding and whatever else her strength enabled her to bring to this place of safety.

My father, coming home with grist of wheat products, could see, hear and smell the fire when he was still miles away. Fearing the worst had

happened to his family and possessions he urged the team of horses on at a terrible rate of speed and yet he said "it seemed as if they were not moving and that he could jump out and run faster."

When he reached home some of the neighbors who had saved some of their own belongings were on hand and were using buckets of water, wet sacks, mops and old brooms in trying to save the log house our home.

People were too ambitious, too proud and too resourceful in those days to ask for aid. Anyway we had the house and its contents, even if all the other buildings, rail fences, hay stacks and winter quarters for the animals were gone. We still had the potatoes which had not been dug, the flour from the load of wheat, and could milk the cows and thus be assured of a bread and milk diet. Many other pioneer hardships can be enumerated but we never went hungry.

Even though I was very young a that time, my memory shows me a picture of the log house surrounded by blackness and cinders which occasionally showed a gleam of red in the darkness. And of my father sitting at the northwest corner of the log house with buckets of water, soaked grain sacks, the wet mop and broom. He was a one man fire department ready to quench the first red cinder, flame or spark of fire that might develop.

The Pioneer Tin Peddler

By Anna Pollock

The "Tin Peddler" several decades ago, was to the rural public what the department stores are to the general public today. Tommy Morann was our favorite peddler.

He was a short blocky built man. His complexion was dark. His hair and big moustache were black. His hearty laugh brought a feeling of cheer and good will to his customers.

He covered his territory about twice a year and his cheery "Hello" always came to our house at supper time. Well we knew we had an overnight guest.

While his team was being unharnessed, fed and watered and put in the barn, our mother had time to put an extra plate on the table, stir up a batch of biscuits, fry an extra egg or two and make a pot of tea which he drank out of the moustache cup.

He had some good stories, new jokes and interesting news to tell about his friends along the route, and noted all the happenings at our house.

While we youngsters enjoyed the visiting, we were more anxious to know what he was going to give us the next morning, for that was the way he paid for his own and his team's food and lodging.

The big tin covered store wagon had wide doors on each side which dropped down and made display tables for his wares. His stock of merchandise was packed compactly and systematically on shelves in his traveling department store.

On one side were all sorts of pots, pans, kettles, washboards, harness snaps and straps, curry combs, shoe soles and pegs, awls and waxed thread for repairing shoes and harness. There were also cornknives, saws, rakes, hoes, hammers, hatchets, lanterns, lamp chimneys, wicks and lamp and lantern burners, brooms, spring scales, dippers, dustpans, milk pails, cream skimmers, butter bowls and ladles.

He always had sales for mouse and rat traps, scissors, knives, forks and spoons of all sizes, etc., etc.

The opposite side of the traveling store held the dry goods and notions. There were jackknives, jews harps, mouth organs, slates and lead and slate pencils, pane, ink, writing paper and envelopes, hair pins, safety pins, fine and coarse combs, shoe strings, candle wicking, wool and cotton yarn.

Other necessities obtainable from the traveling store included needles, pins, thread, hooks and eyes, coat, dress and shoe buttons, knitting needles, sealing wax, shoe and stove blacking, Diamond dye, suspenders, sleeve holders, Rockford socks, women's black hose for everyday and Belmoral stockings for dress. The latter were black with rows of colored stripes around the leg just above the high topped buttoned or laced shoes.

Though we are leaving out many items, let us not forget the demand for lace mitts, fans, sun-bonnets, horseblankets, etc., etc.

Yard goods included brown and blue denim, shirting, calico, ticking for making straw and cornhusk filled mattresses, gingham, linsey-woolsey, mosquito bar, voile, mull, lawn, bleached and unbleached muslin for sheets, pillow cases and underwear, heavy cotton flannel to make husking mitts and I hope we didn't forget the husking pegs.

We looked forward to a call from the "Tin Peddler" as eagerly as from Santa Claus with his "Merry Christmas."

Letter to a Homesteader

(Original copy furnished by John M. Bush, Plover, Iowa)

Lizard, Pocahontas, Iowa
August 31, 1871

Monday evening.
Dear Sir,

I was in Rolfe today and got your notes. Bendixen carried one to mill at Springvale today, which you will receive. I wrote from Rolfe the second day after I arrived here. We have mail from the Fort twice one week and only once the next. So you will see the reason of the slow traveling.

We have had several showers of short duration but of considerable violence. Cold blows the wind today for the first time since we came here. Our shanty will not be pleasant in cold weather as it is very open at the cracks, being wet lumber. I wrote fully in my last of what we had done and what we are going to do. The apples and grapes you can only dispose of as they will not keep and 50 cents is a high price for fall apples.

The grapes you will also dispose of at what they will bring. If you have time fill the cider barrels and ship here. At least one or two of them, or all if you have fallen apples enough to fill them. Fill one now for vinegar—more if you cannot sell the apples. The winter apples, if not too late when shipped for frost, we will ship here—ten or twenty bushels. The Romanites, and Willow and Domino.

If light goods boxes could be gotten, they would answer as well as barrels. Cuttings of the poplar, and the gooseberry and grapes as well as currants and also roots, send. And if the honey locust can be gotten (the seed) I would risk it and also cherry sprouts as there are none to be had here.

Also silver maple, Balm of Gilead, and yellow willows. There is nothing here to be had in the shape of trees but maple, ash, black and grey willow, burr oak, cottonwood, wild plum, the grape, the currant and gooseberry and some other shrubs.

You can get some of the cultivated varieties without pay or the above forest trees. The ash, maple and cottonwood can be on railroad land and are plentiful. The growth of seedlings on the deposits of the Des Moines river, ash especially plentiful and a good timber. The rest are all difficult to get.

The people here don't give away anything and ask about two prices for everything. I have had quite a number figuring around me to sell cows, calves, oxen, etc.

Thomas was offered a good five year old yoke of oxen for Nig or Sorrell yesterday. Also a 12 inch breaking plow with rolling cutter and three lays for $10.00. I did not look at it—told him I had no use for it unless to break fire lines this fall. Would look at it when I had more time. I will buy it if not too much worn—perhaps it is worthless.

We are told horses are not worth anything and the next you know a crowd will annoy you steady to exchange for cows, cattle, corn and so on.

The apple grinder, I did not intend to ship. The gearing of the cider grinder and the pulley you are getting fitted to the washing machine would be far too small. A wooden pulley could be made to run it with box in center that would not cost much. If you cannot get what it is worth send boxes and journals with wooden cylinder or without cylinder. Indeed it might be as well to sell the whole thing, power and all. But it would be useful here.

It would be well to ship a bushel of the different varieties of potatoes. They have the Peach Blow and the Rose here. There are plenty of potatoes planted here but they are afraid to ask a price for them for fear they would not ask enough.

They will get over that in a little—like the oats they have been used to high prices with the cost of hauling added instead of deducted. We are busy making hay. The weather has not been favorable, though not wet, but foggy.

Our cellar, 16 by 32, is dug. We commenced to haul lumber from Manson and the stone, lime, etc. We worked steady and hard. Late and early and will get into cold weather before we are ready for it. In my last I spoke of shipping the wheat. Thomas saw a man who lives nine miles north of here and says it can be had where he lives and does well. Wheat looks up in price—went from .90 to 1.05 and fell again to .90 in Fort Dodge.

You don't say how the bug has been doing in the corn since we left. The bug in Iowa north of line is all a fiction. Not a bug on the whole route, nor are any reported in the Iowa papers. The New York Tribune—I have never got a copy yet, the other two I got. I have no time for letter writing, not even on Sunday. So my friends must excuse me for seeming neglect, until I have more leisure.

We had the county surveyor. The pond gives us a good hack into the northeast quarter. The rest is all right. (I should say 20 acres.) The rest of the land is all good. Found no corners but the southeast and the southwest. Find when burnt off.

Plenty of prairie chicken here, rather wild and no time to hunt. Killed, I think, about two dozen. I am tired of eating them at present. We did wrong in not fattening and shipping our pork. I see none for sale among the farmers here.

Beef may supply the deficit. If you have any hogs left, fatten them and ship here. Butter 8 and 10 cents and none to be had. The store will not buy it. Eggs are 6 cents per dozen.

My love to the rest of the family and Jennie.

Yours

A. Smith

P. S. Sept. 3rd 1871

Will post in Manson tomorrow as we go for lumber. All that is here maybe altered when I get prices in Fort Dodge. Flour $2.50 per 100 pounds.

A few pounds of timothy and clover seed may be very well.

My Most Unforgettable Character

By Anna Pollock

W. H. Hait, a 23-year-old gentleman from New York state, was timber for a statesman in thought, word and deed, though he was a man of few words, well spoken.

He came west (after graduating from an eastern college) by train, stage coach, on foot, or by ox drawn wagons to get experience on the prairies of Iowa.

He erected the first log house in Pocahontas County, Iowa, in 1859 on a high knoll (which was later found to have been an Indian burial ground). It was near the Des Moines river which was bordered with timber.

His log house also served as the first school house in the county. Miss Helen Harvey was the teacher.

In 1861 a brick school house was built and Miss Harvey was the first school teacher in it.

New settlers came from various places to set up small business places which soon developed into a village. Most of the newcomers settled on homesteads or bought land on which they raised field crops and live stock.

Mr. Hait first called the town Highland; later he wanted to call it Milton, which was the name of his home town in New York State. But for historical reasons it was named Rolfe as it was located in Pocahontas county, Iowa. A post office was placed in a corner of the general store.

Mail came by stage going from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake at irregular intervals. After the county was organized a brick court house was built near the school house.

Mr. Hait was always elected to some county office.

In 1868 Mr. Hait and Miss Harvey were married and moved into the large frame house which was built in 1867 and is now the only building left in Old Rolfe.

It is being restored to its original state and will become a Pocahontas county museum at a centennial celebration on July 4, 5 and 6, 1963.

When the railroads were built through that part of Iowa in 1882, the railroad station was built about four miles southwest of the inland village and the new town took the name of Rolfe. So, Old Rolfe just faded away.

In 1898, the writer of this article taught the last term of school in the little brick school house in Old Rolfe and boarded and roomed in Hait's house.

His tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Williams, were in charge of the household after the death of Mrs. Hait in 1887.

MR. AND MRS. W. H. HAIT

Mr. Hait, that tall, erect, and angular typed man, often sat on his doubled-up legs, on the grass in his well kept yard bordered with flowers inside the picket fence surrounding it and extending to the house which had shutters on all its windows.

He seldom smiled and never laughed (to my knowledge). He asked to see my text books. "Just to see if some of the boys in my class were the authors," he remarked.

His laconic remarks were curt, convincing and cleverly interesting.

At the burial of a small child, in the cemetery near by, the mother acted hysterical and attracted much attention and sympathy.

Mr. Hait quietly remarked, "A bawling cow forgets her calf first."

It is said, Mr. Hait believed:

"We believe in deeds not years
In thoughts not breath."
"He lives most who thinks most
Feels the noblest and acts the best."

Letter From a Soldier

Selma, Alabama
August 23rd, 65

Dear Brother:

I write these few lines to you to let you know that I am in good health at present hoping this will find you all the same, you must excuse me for not writing to you sooner. I suppose you must have thought that the rebels had killed me or something else happened to me because I did not write to you, but as there has been some talk of us getting home for the last three months I kept putting off writing thinking that we would soon get home but the report at present is that the regiment will have to remain here until next spring but my time will be out in four months from now and then I will get home if I live that long. I have had chills and fever two or three times this summer but I am beginning to feel strong and better now.

We left New Orleans on Mar. 5 and arrived at Fort Gainor Alabama next day where we stayed two weeks until all the troops got there and Gen. Steel who was coming over from Pensacola, then we got on board the gunboats and came up fish river about 30 miles where we stayed about a week, we then were some 18 or 20 miles east of Mobile and Spanish Fort. We built breastwork to protect us from the rebel scouts while laying at fish river and after all was ready we started for Spanish Fort. It took over two days to get there as we camped about three o'clock in the afternoon to fortify for the night. We came up with the rebels about ten o'clock in the forenoon of the third day and formed in line of battle and drove them into their works there was a good many of our men killed that day as we had no works to protect us from the rebel fire, but we went to work and built breastwork and batteries and dug rifle pits. We worked day and night for nearly two weeks. In a few days we had our skirmish line so close to their works that our men could shoot the rebel gunners whenever they would go to charge their guns. So they had to close up their defense with sandbags and let their guns remain idle, but they could use their morters and they threw plenty of shells at us but they were forced to evacuate the works and leave all their guns and ammunition with all their company's stores. We went in and took possession about midnight April 8th. Next morning we got orders to march around and assist Gen. Steel to capture Fort Blakely. It was only 8 miles distance. We got there in the afternoon and part of our corps charged the rebel works and captured 3,000 prisoners with all the guns and everything else that was there. Then Mobile was taken in a few days with all the rest of the forts. Then we started on a march to Montgomery the state capitol and it took us 13 days to get there where we stayed 2 weeks then the first division came to Selma. We got here May 11 and been here ever since. General Wilson captured this place April 2nd then he took Montgomery and other places in this state and went on into Georgia so we had no more fighting to do.

The weather has been very warm here this summer and very dry. It is still very warm in the afternoon but the nights are cool. The health of the troop is improving since it began to get cooler. There are not near so many of the boys sick and those who are seem to be on a fair way to recovery. Our regiment is doing the provost duty in town, but I have been at the hospital over two months. I have charge of the convalescent ward. My duty is very light as the darkeys has all the hard work to do and I like to stay here better than in camp. No more at present, remember me to all the rest of us.

Your affectionate Brother
Andrew Struthers

Coopertown

The social and educational center of the pioneer neighborhood known as COOPERTOWN was the one room school house located on section 5 in Des Moines Township, Pocahontas County, Iowa. It was located on the north side of the road which runs east and west between sections 5 and 8.

The building faced the south with the door opening toward the road. The play ground was on the east, the wood shed on the west, and the two privies were on the north sides from the school house.

The windows were on the east and west sides in the school room. There was no ante room. The children's hats and wraps were hung on hooks placed across the south wall on both sides of the door. Dinner pails rested on the floor beneath the wraps.

In the southeast corner of the room was a small bench which held a wash-basin, soap and towel. Above the bench was a shelf on which the water pail and dipper rested, until a privileged scholar was allowed to pass the water. Every child had a drink out of the same dipper with no thought of germs or of contagion.

In the middle of the room was a large wood-burning stove with a long stove pipe extending to the chimney in the north wall. The black-board reached across that north wall below the chimney. Much use was made of it for class room work which included diagram sentences, cipher down, write spelling lessons, multiplication tables, map drawing, memory gems, free hand drawing and writing which occasionally included strange cartoons (which were soon erased).

The teacher's chair and a large desk stood on a raised platform in front of the black board. Placed on top of the desk were the teacher's school bell, a dictionary, the daily register, a few reference books and a ruler which could be used for whatever the occasion demanded.

The pupils' seats and desks faced the north, which is an advantage in studying geography for pupils to realize that the top of a map is always north (unless otherwise stated). There were often 30 or more pupils ranging in age from 5 to 17 in the one room school house taught by the same teacher.

Each child, big or little, owned a slate, a slate pencil and a slate rag to clean off the slate.

One of my early griefs and worries was when Johnny Inman borrowed my very short stub of a slate pencil and he accidentally swallowed it . . . I cried over the loss of my pencil and for fear Johnny would die. He did not die, but my pencil was never retrieved.

At the close of one little girl's first day of school she reported to her mother that the teacher was lazy. "There is a big stove in the middle of the room but she never cooked a thing, and a big sewing machine up in front, but she never sewed a stitch." Later in the year when there was snow on the ground, that same child fell in the well and was pulled out by a big boy who had been telling wild tales about living with the Indians, and had often eaten dried snakes, dog stew, roast wolf and other unusual meals in the wigwams with Indians.

Nobody believed him until one day two squaws and some Indian children came to the school house at the noon recess to try to sell Indian bead work and trinkets to the teacher. That boy saw them and they laughed and chatted together in Indian language.

Friendly Indians camped in the timber by the Des Moines river every winter to trap, hunt and fish. The squaws rode on Indian ponies through the settlements begging for cast-off clothing, meat, eggs, butter, lard, potatoes or most anything except pumpkins. The ice covered prairie sloughs were dotted with muskrat houses and much money was made by Indians as well as pioneer trappers from the sale of muskrat skins.

Many of the pioneer settlers in the Coopertown area were of unusual culture and intelligence. Among them were some ingenious Yankees from New York, Connecticut, and other eastern states, a small colony of thrifty Danes direct from their home land, some sturdy and intellectual Scotch and English families who had come from the British Isles or from Canada.

All worked together harmoniously through hardships or prosperity. Prairie fires, grasshoppers, blizzards, tornades, hail, lightning, black leg and lump jaw among the cattle were among the elements of discouragement.

There was no railroad town nearer than Fort Dodge. The inland town of Old Rolfe was the trading post where these pioneer settlers got their mail, groceries and other needed supplies about every two weeks. These trips were made on horseback or by horse or oxen teams in sleighs in the winter, or lumber wagons over roadless prairies, around the sloughs and over the knolls and dry land covered by wild grass and prairie flowers.

Horse or ox drawn breaking plows turned the virgin prairie sod for the first crop of flax. In succeeding years corn, wheat, oats, buckwheat, beans and cane were planted, mostly by hand and cultivated by horse drawn plows and harrows guided by the farmer on foot.

Wild prairie grass provided pasture for cattle herded in the summer time, or was cut for hay which was put into stacks on the prairie and hauled in during the winter when needed for feed or bedding for horses and cattle.

The earliest corn planter was called a "shot gun planter" operated by hand and carried by

the farmer as he spaced the distance between hills by his steps. Small grain was also sown by hand. The seed was in a sack strapped over the man's left shoulder and opened in front of him, so he could reach into it with his right and to take a handful of seed to scatter over the field. Fields were small. Corn was husked by hand; grain was cut by primitive machinery and bound in bundles, shocked, and stacked to allow it to sweat before it was threshed late in the fall by horse power threshing machines.

Every family raised potatoes and garden vegetables which were stored in caves or cellars for winter use. Wheat was taken to mill at Springvale (now called Humboldt) and made into flour, shorts and bran. Corn was ground into meal. Butter and cheese were made at home. Cane was taken to the sorghum mill and usually a half barrel of molasses was brought home for winter sweets.

Every fall a hog was butchered and a quarter of beef was bought, every farmer had milk cows, so the families' fare was very good. Corn meal mush and Johnnycake, buckwheat pancakes with bacon and molasses, home made bread and fresh butter, along with butter milk or sweet milk, soup and garden sass made healthy food without vitamins added.

Many large families were raised without ever having a doctor in the house. Babies were born with a neighbor woman in attendance to take care of mother and child. Usually all went well.

When these children reached five years of age their education started in the country school houses. Seven months of school were held each year and were divided into two terms.

The three months term started May first and lasted through July. The winter term was from December first to the last of March. This enabled the older children to help put in the spring crops and to help harvest the small grain and husk the corn by hand in the fall.

Coopertown school house also served as a place of worship every Sunday. Supply preachers came from Old Rolfe, on horseback or on some horse drawn rig, to hold religious services.

Sunday school was held regularly. Hundreds of Bible verses were committed to memory. David C. Cook lesson leaves were studied. The "Advocate" was the magazine to take home.

Everybody came to the meeting house services to see their neighbors, take part in the singing which was never accompanied by any musical instrument, though some boys could play a jews harp, a mouth organ, or even a fiddle at the country dances, but it would be sacreligious to play them in church.

During the winter months social activities were many, varied and interesting. There was always a Christmas tree brought from the timber on the banks of the Des Moines river.

It was decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberry festoons, green tissue paper bows and sacks made from mosquito bar holding Christmas candy.

Every one admired the beautifully decorated tree and wondered who would get the mysterious packages hung on it or placed around it. A program was given as soon as the meeting could be called to order. Every child spoke a piece or sang a song before Santa Claus' Jingle Bells were heard and he came bouncing in to wish everybody A Merry Christmas and to distribute gifts, candy sacks and even apples some years.

There was little money to pay the preacher so every year a donation party was held for him at a community meeting in the school house. An appropriate home talent program was given along with gifts of farm products. He responded with a nice thank you speech.

Spelling bees, singing school, home talent plays, which were called exhibitions, provided entertainment and developed talent. Play practices and box socials encouraged close friends and sparking which sometimes terminated with ringing of wedding bells, followed by charivari celebrations and happy homes.

The lyceums and debating societies afforded much fun, interest, education, practice of parliamentary law, rules or order in conducting meetings and experience in appearing before the public.

These meetings were conducted by adults and were carried out in proper manner. Officers were elected for short terms. A program committee was appointed to give assignments for the next meeting. Anyone assigned to take a part and failing to do so paid a fine of 50 cents (that was a lot of money in those days).

Hugh Jamison was put on the debating team. He was very bashful but saved his 50 cent fine by rising from his seat, walking to the platform and addressed the chair, honorable judges, ladies and gentlemen and then said "There is just one point I want to make—that is to get back to my seat just as quick as possible."

Questions for debate varied from the serious to the ridiculous. There were always three speakers on each side and a rebuttal. Three judges made the decisions according to points made.

It was wonderful training in oratory and in public speaking. On each night's program there were also songs, declamations or dialogues and always the reading of the news, ads and jokes written in the Coopertown Courrier.

The family homes in the neighborhood provided places for parties, dances, oyster stews, taffy pulls, play parties, and just meetings where corn was popped, apples eaten, fortunes told, stunts and tricks performed.

However, life was far from being all play for pioneers. Every member of a well regulated farm family had chores or other regular work to do, along with the incidentals—snaring gophers, killing snakes, riding bareback on horses, driving cattle to or from the herd, picking wild strawberries on the prairie, picking potato bugs into

a tin can with kerosene in it and then burning them. Milking cows, feeding calves, hogs and chickens, filling the slop barrel, catching frogs for fish bait, watching tadpoles in the rain barrel and birds build nests in the trees, picking wild flowers on the prairie, bending the tops on gum weeds and going back the third day to gather the gum. Carrying lunch and water to workmen in the field, breaking a colt to ride or a horse to drive, teaching the dog new tricks or to go after the cows, emptying ashes, bringing in cobs and filling wood boxes, filling the kerosene lamps and cleaning the chimneys, ironing with flat irons that were heated on the kitchen stove, sewing, mending, scrubbing and baking.

In Coopertown everybody, young or old, worked all week until Saturday afternoon when the Des Moines Township baseball team played ball in Al Ralph's pasture. Everybody played or cheered at the Olympics of that era.

When consolidation of country schools became the order of the day, the Prairie University of Coopertown and other rural school houses were moved to the center of the township and became a part of D.M.T. Consolidated.

COOPERTOWN BASEBALL TEAM

The Hayknife and I

By Charles [redacted] Henderson

My parents, James and Beatrice Penman Henderson, and their three children emigrated from Ontario, Canada, in 1866. They came by train to Boone, Iowa. That was as far as the railroad came at that time. From there they took a stage coach to Pocahontas County, one hundred miles north. Although they paid their fare, Father walked behind and carried a fence rail to pry the stage out of the mud when they mired down.

They arrived at a claim homesteaded by an uncle, where they built a small shack. This was where the Ivan Petersons now live. Later Father filed a claim further to the northwest, on the farm northwest of Plover where the Elwood Hendersons now reside. There was 160 acres but only about 50 acres were tillable at that time, the rest was low and swampy. It was here they built a board shack 16 by 16 with a loft overhead for sleeping. Five more children were born. I was the last to arrive on the scene, April 30, 1874, weighing 11 lbs and ready to cope with the rugged frontier life, otherwise I could not have survived a serious injury received a few years later.

My parents' family consisted of two set of twins and four other children. Although no births were closer than 1½ years, this made eight children with the oldest only 10 years old, all crowded into that tiny shack. A lot of kids to feed on corn and keep warm with prairie hay.

Father went by foot or ox team to Ft. Dodge, a distance of 50 miles, for supplies. It was upon the return from one of these trips that he found the addition of a second set of twins to the family. During his absence the house caught on fire. Mother got up out of bed and extinguished it with cream from the churn.

Many times I have been grateful that my parents had courage to settle in this seemingly God forsaken country. The tough prairie sod could only be farmed on the high ground, the rest was covered with water much of the year. The sod was so interlaced with roots that it would hang together several rods without breaking.

It has proven to be the "Garden Spot Of The World." Even Khrushchev fell in love with Iowa.

My first vivid memory was the "Big Snow" winter of 1880-81. The first blizzard came October 15 and winter lasted 'til May. There were few trees to stop the snow, sometimes buildings were covered from a 3-day snow. Our cattle shed and other buildings and haystacks outside were covered with snowbanks. A hole had to be cut through the roof to let down feed and water for the stock and to the milk cows.

Spring came at last, and we were picking corn, sowing oats and plowing for the new crop, when there was still a snow bank in the fields. Times were getting better for the pioneers, the railroad came through our township (Powhatan). The town of Plover was established two miles from the homestead. Father had bought more land and we had about 400 acres to farm with horses. There was much prairie hay to cut and stack, this kept the older boys busy baling and hauling hay to town during the winter where it was loaded in freight cars and shipped to Chicago.

In 1886 my two oldest sisters Catherine (who became Mrs. Louis Parradee) and Elizabeth (who became Mrs. Samuel Horsman) moved to homes of their own.

The morning of Nov 7, 1887, dawned clear and mild, a good morning for work. My four older brothers were out early to pick corn by hand. They were rushing to get it into the crib before snow fell.

Father planned well, I was to help him haul in some extra hay as he was to act as judge at the General Election the next day. As we started out early to the hayfield to get the first load, we could hear the music of the golden ears of corn as they hit the bang boards on the wagon boxes.

The hay was stacked in large stacks out in the fields and we used a lightning hayknife to cut the stack in two so there would not be so much hay exposed to the rain. The hayknife was about 3 feet long, ½ inch thick and about 3 inches wide. Notches projected from the side, which were sharpened on the lower side to cut the hay as the knife was pumped up and down.

We had loaded the last of the hay from the stack onto the wagon which made the load higher than usual. I took the reins from the holder ready to start for the barnyard when Father saw the hay knife laying on the ground. He called, "Wait a minute," and threw the knife up on the load. This is where the thoughtlessness of youth was shown.

Instead of taking it and sticking it into the hay, back from the driver, I just stepped on it and started up the horses. Everything looked rosy that morning. We would get enough hay for the cattle for the next day so Father could go to the election and I could have the day off, to hang around the schoolhouse where some of the candidates usually brought a barrel of apples for the voters and the boys.

Little did I know that this was the last work I would do for many months. I had not gone far when the wagon ran over a rough place, the top of the load slipped off and the hay, hayknife and I went careening to the ground. The hayknife beat me to it and poised pointed upward. I landed on the point and the knife entered my body just inside my left and came out at the first rib on the right side about 4 inches from the breastbone. Fortunately it didn't cut any vital

arteries or veins so there was not an excessive amount of blood.

I lay stunned for a moment then called to Father who was walking behind, "Come, take the knife out of me." He pulled the knife out and was so stunned that he took me in his arms and started to carry me to the house a quarter of a mile away. He hadn't gone far when he realized that it was too far for him. He was small of stature, not over 5'3" and I was a strapping 13-year old. He sat me down on my feet and ran back to the faithful horses still standing where we had left them. I was walking on toward the house. He made the team trot until he caught up with me, pulled me up on what was left of the load of hay and drove up to the front door of the house. He carried me in, laid me on the bed. It was a great shock to Mother.

Here I pause for a time to introduce a new character into the story. Dr. W. W. Beam was a brilliant young physician and surgeon who had located in Rolfe, 11 miles away, in 1881. The country had settled rapidly after the railroad came thro' and he had built up a large practice. He kept a stable of four teams of the best horses available and kept a hostler who bunked in the stables and was instructed to have a fresh team harnessed at all times, day and night, in times of epidemic. There were many in those days.

Back at the homestead, after I was put to bed, things began to happen. My brothers were called in from the field to help. One was dispatched on the fleetest horse to Plover, there were no telephones in those days, but there was a telegraph station there and a message was sent to Rolfe, which was relayed to the doctor. He happened to be in and was out to the farm in record time for that era. I had not lost consciousness until I was in bed and then due to the loss of blood I fell asleep. The doctor gave me chloroform while he examined and dressed the wound. The knife had broken thro' the skin at the lower part of the abdomen and re-entered. Dr Beam thought this was the extent of the injury. He had dressed the two wounds, then discovered where the point came thro' at the first rib. This was more serious so he bandaged the entire body. By the next morning when he returned the bandages had become so tight that it caused about the most severe pain of the entire healing period.

We had built a new house some years before the accident and we had more room, but they set up a bed in the front room to get around and take care of me. There were no hospitals or nurses in those days, so Mother and Father cared for me the entire three months that I was in bed. After the first few days there was little pain so I could rest fairly well.

Dr. Beam visited me almost every day. The long internal wound left by the knife had to be syringed out with medicine every day to keep out infection and to make sure the wound would heal from inside out.

Thanks, to the Great Healer, an efficient physician, good nurses and helpers and a patient patient, the wound healed completely without much infection. I have done nearly every kind of work since that time and it has never given me any trouble.

I met Dr. Beam one day after we had hospitals and modern equipment and we were talking about the accident. He said, "Charlie, if we had that same case today we would take you to the hospital, operate on you and probably kill you."

As I come to the end of this story on my 88th birthday and look back across the 74½ years since that tragic day I think the Creator must have toughened the fiber of those pioneers who stayed thro' winter blizzards, summer draughts, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, and epidemics and raised large families and conquered the tough prairie sod with only trails through the prairie grass for roads. It was these pioneers who were the backbone of this Nation, I think their names should be written high in God's Hall of Fame.

For no stranger or traveler was ever turned away when night came or storm struck, altho' there was not much to eat and little room, they always cared for the sick whether they had money or not.

"For I was a stranger and Ye took me in, For I was sick and Ye visited me."

I think I can hear some cynic say, as he reads this story "Were you there Charlie?" I will say in reply, "Yes, Charlie was there and I was just as skeptical as anyone, for how could a boy live after a knife of that size was driven 14 inches into his body?"

Writings of Frank L. MacVey

To most of the citizens of this, the northeast corner of Pocahontas county, the name "Old Rolfe" signifies little. To some it is but a legend, and to others a myth, but to those of us who knew it and lived there or thereabouts, and mourned its decadence as a point of interest on the advent of the railroad, it means much, as we look back upon it through "memory's fading haze."

To the writer, and perhaps a few others, some pleasant, even fragrant memories cluster about it. Here was the local metropolis of that far-distant day. Here was the store where we bought our meager supplies for the humble home and heard the local gossip and news from the world outside. And here we found the long awaited express package that came up from Fort Dodge on the stage with its canopy top and the cream colored Indian ponies driven by kindly old Mr. Buckle. Here we had the lays for the breaking plow sharpened at the only blacksmith shop within a radius of 20 miles. Here we received our mail—the Pocahontas Journal, perhaps the Fort Dodge Times, and letters, precious letters, from "back home." Sometimes there came a letter edged with black that told of a passing of a loved one days, even weeks, before and hundreds of miles away. I remember one such that came to our home. The anguish such missives brought in their train no pen of mine can portray.

Here we sometimes attended church in the old brick school house, and here some of us came to lay away out of our sight forever our blessed, precious dead in the cemetery nearby. And here were formed friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

This is the Old Rolfe of which I am attempting to write. On the most sightly eminence in the county stood the old brick court house, built in 1860 by John M. Stockdale. A more scenic location could scarce be found anywhere in a prairie country. Small wonder that our county seat bore the name of Highland City for a short time. To the east, less than a quarter of a mile away, stood the blue-gray belt of timber that fringed the Des Moines river. "Hait's woods," we called it. It was the finest body of hardwood timber in the country then. To the south was a beautiful vista of Beaver creek and its timber. To the west rolled the endless, billowing prairies, stretching away mile upon mile to the far-distant horizon only slightly blurred here and there by the scattered homes of the few early settlers. From earliest spring till deepest autumn it presented the aspect of an undulating sea of deepest green, pulsing with bird life and generously bespangled with wild flowers of a hundred species that literally "wasted their fragrance on the desert air." It was a beautiful sight which I can still visualize, and one which the eye of man shall never again behold. It is gone with the past.

North of the court house, and at the foot of "Courthouse hill," on the flat, stood Bruce & McEwen's general store, erected in 1869. Running north from the east end of this store stood a hitching shed about 20 x 80 feet, open to the east. The lumber for this shed had been hauled from Algona by Ed Slosson and A. H. Hancher. Martin J. Salisbury had a hand in its erection. This was a great convenience to the settlers when they come in town, sheltering their teams in all kinds of weather. Many and varied were the equipages I have seen moored therein. The well at the south of the store was dug by Thomas Cooper and was one of the very best, furnishing water for both courthouse and school house as long as they were in use, there being no well at either place.

North and slightly west of this store and across the road was the Andrew Lorimer store. Across the street from Bruce & McEwen store was the Davy hotel, erected in 1872 facing east on the public road. Across the north was the rambling log cabin tavern of David Slosson, erected in 1859, one of the first two houses in the community. This was the first hotel in the county and also the first postoffice, the mail being kept in a soapbox under the landlord's bed. From the organization of the county on March 21, 1859, till the building of the courthouse this hostelry was also the repository for part of the county records, the rest being stored in W. H. Hait's log cabin. In 1867, Mr. Hait's spacious home was erected on town lots east of the courthouse and across the road from his farm. This was for many years the finest house in the county. About 15 rods south of this home stood the Matson blacksmith shop and a short distance in the background was the comfortable Matson cottage. By 1876 several more houses had been built or moved in.

THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

This historic building the only brick school house between Fort Dodge and the Minnesota line, and the finest building of its kind in all northwest Iowa at that time, was erected in 1860-61 by Wm. H. Hait and Robert Struthers, contractors, at a cost of $4,850. The contract was let July 21, 1860, while the court house was in course of construction and inasmuch as the brick were made by the same machinery, the lumber cut by the same mill and the construction similar throughout, even to the return cornice and fan windows in the gables of each building, it seems fair to assume that the same artisans were em-

ployed on both contracts. I question seriously if any local talent was on the payroll of either building project, except perhaps as teamsters or timber fallers. It must be borne in mind that this was a country schoolhouse, as no township organization had as yet been effected. It was a large one story building consisting of a classroom and a hall running the full width of the building and about eight feet wide. Here reposed the water bucket and wash bench, and hooks on the wall accommodated wraps. Two doors gave access to the schoolroom, one at each end of the hall. The first seats were all homemade, painted a dark brown, and the teacher's desk was a plain solid black walnut table with a drawer. It was heated with an immense stove burning four-foot wood. One striking peculiarity of this building was the acoustic properties. It was a splendid forum for public speaking but a persistent reverberating echo made recitations difficult at all times. This echo was noticeable on the outside, particularly on the south side near the east end. The drone of recitations within on a quiet day seemed to my childish imagination like the subdued tones of some mighty musical instrument. Many a time have I stood and listened.

The first teacher in this notable building was Miss Helen Harvey, who later became Mrs. Wm. H. Hait, who taught in 1861 and 62. Wm. D. McEwen taught the winter terms of 1866-67 and 68 and was a very efficient teacher. I have no means of knowing what other teachers served there or who was my mother's immediate predecessor. In the summer of 1860 while my mother, Mrs. R. W. MacVey, was teaching her third term in what was then known as the Fraser district, W. D. McEwen and David Slosson solicited her to teach the Rolfe school at a higher salary and for as long as she cared to, so on Nov. 15, 1860, she assumed the sceptre of scholastic government in the brick schoolhouse, where she held sway for three years. The enrollment was the largest in the county.

The first teacher's institute held in Pocahontas county convened in this schoolhouse in December, 1860, and remained in session five days. David Miller of Lizard township was county superintendent, and the instructor in charge was Prof. Colwell of Iowa City who chose his assistants from the material at hand. Oscar I. Strong taught mathematics, Mrs. MacVey English grammar and history, and J. J. Jolliffe assisted in the teaching of geography and had charge of music and recreational activities.

It should be noted that this early-day temple of learning served also as church, polling place, public forum and community center for 20 years or more.

THE OLD STORE

In view of the fact that the Stockdale-Hait sawmill was set up in 1859, coincident with the establishment of the postoffice at the David Slosson home and was in continuous operation, cutting as much lumber as the settlers could use and more than they could pay for, and the courthouse was completed in 1860, and the brick schoolhouse serving the educational needs of the community in the fall of 1861, it seems to the writer passing strange that for almost ten years after these beginnings no one had the temerity or the means, or enough of both at one time, to embark in the mercantile business. On other

THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

frontiers less favored than this the trading post had followed hard on the heel of settlement, when it did not precede it, as it did at Lott's Creek (now Livermore), Spirit Lake, and other points all over the middle west. In the fall of 1869, however, the ground was broken for two stores, as noted in other articles.

During this decade of "watchful waiting" for the store that came and the railroad that never did, the progress of the settlers was sure, but of necessity slow. Herds were increasing by natural process, and families packed their small surplus of summer butter in wooden tubs, or firkins, to be marketed in Fort Dodge in the fall, usually making the trip at night to keep the product as cool as possible. The measure of a good cow was her ability to take care of a small family and furnish 100 pounds of butter for packing, and there were many that did it on the excellent pastures of that early day.

Trapping was another line of endeavor that paid fairly well during this era and many families added to their meagre income in this way. In late winter of each year fur buyers, John Gilbert the famous frontiersman of Spirit Lake, Ed Brown of Fort Dodge and O. A. Avery, the local man, drove this territory in quest of peltries.

In the winter of 1868 a Mr. Cummins of Palo Alto county hired John Joliffe and George Drown, both of Powhatan township, to trap for him for one month, giving each man for his services his choice of a cow from his herd. Mr. Cummins furnished all equipment, including provisions, and located them on or near Swan Lake laying out a trap line of about 12 miles, and helped build a dugout for their camp. At the end of the month these men turned over the fur, mainly muskrat and mink, though one wolf, one lynx and one raccoon were included in the catch, and received their cow. An upturn in the fur market enabled Mr. Cummins to realize over $160 from this venture. All parties to the deal were well satisfied. I have these facts from the principals.

It must be borne in mind that very little grain of any kind was raised as yet, and any small surplus was soon taken by a neighbor. During the lean years the settlers secured such supplies as they could pay for at "the fort" making their trips by team and camping on the way. Those taking this journey were sure to be entrusted with numerous errands by their neighbors.

A little of the trade went to Springvale (Humboldt) because of the mill there, but the majority to "the Fort." Some even walked. In late February of 1868 Samuel Booth and my father made such a trip, walking the first day as far as Latham's at Deer Creek, nine miles this side of Fort Dodge, where they spent the night. Next day they walked into town, transacted their business and reurned to Latham's to spend the second night, and reached home the night of the third day. Each man had purchased a half pound of tea and a few other trifles such as could be stowed in their pockets, and my father carried a gallon can of kerosene, while Mr. Booth toted a rolling coulter for his breaking plow. This on a 40-mile walk!

Early in the spring of 1860 Rolfe's two mercantile establishments were stocked and opened to the public. Our market had arrived and Rolfe was on the map. Here the settlers could dispose of their butter and eggs, their hides and furs. The post office was moved from the Slosson tavern and installed in the Bruce McEwen store, where it remained for 10 years. My father made and installed the case of pigeonholes for the mail. In quality and variety of merchandise this frontier store compared favorably with the ordinary general store of the present day, but in kinds of goods and manner of packaging what a difference! Flour, sugar, hominy, rice and dried apples all came in large barrels, green coffee in sacks of over 100 pounds, tea in the original packages from the orient—chests lined with sheet lead, the exterior emblazoned with gorgeous mandarins and geisha girls with temples and pagodas in the background. Leather boots, snow pacs and other footwear, as well as dry goods, came in wooden boxes, many of them as large as could be loaded in a wagon, and made of a grade of pine that would shame any piece of finish in any lumber yard today. These boxes were given away or sold for a mere pittance. Many articles on the shelves have been obsolete for 50 years, among them candles, candle moulds and candle snuffers, and percussion caps for the muzzle-loading guns of that time. Ready-made clothing, except overcoats and woolen shirts, was unknown here. The paper sack was non-existent, and your purchase of whatever nature was handed you neatly wrapped in a sheet of paper after a sleight-of-hand performance by the clerk. Nails and shelf hardware were also stocked. Alex McEwen was the first clerk, serving till the spring of 1874. John Price then served a year's apprenticeship, followed by George Horton, who eventually became owner of the stock. Trade came from the territory now served by Rodman, Mallard, Curlew, Ayrshire and Swan Lake, and up and down the river on both sides. Many people coming from these distances camped overnight, not for diversion, but from motives of economy.

THE BLIZZARD

I have not seen an old-time blizzard in more than 40 years, and I seriously question if anyone else in this region has. The terrific three-day storms that filled the winter with dread and the heart with fear, and sent the traveler scurrying to shelter, and sometimes brought death to him for whom shelter was not, are a thing of the past. They are gone into oblivion as surely as the Indian and the buffalo. We have had cold winters a-plenty and storms without number and days on end of sub-zero weather but some climate

change has taken place which has eliminated the three day blizzard which was a feature of the Iowa winters from 1860 to 1885 with two notable exceptions. There were no storms of any kind during the winter of 1877-8 and farmers were able to plow throughout the winter. Neither were there any blizzards, and only one light snow during the winter of 1881-2.

The blizzard was usually preceded by at least a day of soft weather. Anywhere from 11 to 1 o'clock snow as fine as flour and sufficiently sticky to adhere to the side of a building would begin to sift down, frequently from the northeast. As the snowfall thickened, the wind rose, and within an hour had shifted to the northwest and the storm was on. Visibility at once became very low. Whether you drifted with the storm or went at variance with it, it always seemed that the snow was being blown up from the ground into your face as if propelled by some great centrifugal force. It stung one's face like needles and you frequently had to fight for breath. The temperatures dropped slowly but steadily during the storm and by nightfall of the third day when the storm always abated, the temperature was at its lowest, frequently 30 degrees below. The early explorers and plainsmen noticed that the Indians deserted the plains regions at the approach of winter and remained along the timbered streams till the advent of spring. Washington Irving makes notes of this in his book "Astoria," as also does Captain Bonneville in his records. The red man, student of nature that he was, and rich in tribal lore of his vanished ancestors, knew the hazards and perils of the wide open spaces during the winter season.

EARLY DAY AMUSEMENTS

It has been no part of my purpose at any time to paint a picture of pioneer experience in somber colors throughout. There was always the lighter side. Poor though the settlers might be in the coin of the realm and other goods of this world, they were blessed for the greater part with youth and courage, born perhaps in inexpeience, but courage nevertheless. With them life was young and hope was new and they faced the future unabashed and unafraid. If they had a cabin on their homestead and a yoke of oxen and a cow, they considered themselves fairly well established, and the smoke of green wood fires would ascend heavenward from their chimneys as long as the timber grew on the Des Moines river. A spirit of neighborliness of a quality and degree not known to this generation existed. Whenever loneliness and heart hunger or the urge to see somebody became too strong, the family was loaded into the wagons and the oxen headed towards the cabin of some congenial friend and neighbor. These visits were unheralded and unannounced. The telephone was to arrive a generation later. Hospitality was so common as to be scarce considered a virtue. People of that day shared their meager but wholesome fare as freely and fully as they did their joys and sorrows. Human sympathy was as free and spontaneous as the grace of God. Despite the fact that these people were poor in dollars and cents they had time, plenty of it, time to go visiting, time to hunt ducks and prairie chickens for the table, time to fish in the river if they so desired, and time to take the family to the woods in the early fall to gather wild grapes, plums and walnuts.

In the matter of recreation the year held four gala-day occasions—the Fourth of July celebration with its evening dance, the Sunday school picnic, the annual "donation," and the big Christmas ball. I never saw a Christmas tree until the winter of 1876. We hung up our stockings on Christmas eve.

Old Rolfe had two Fourth of July celebrations, one sometime before 1870 and the other in 1876. Usually these celebrations were held at McKnight's Point across the river in Humboldt county. But the dance which invariably followed the celebration was always staged in the courtroom as long as the building was used for a courthouse, it being the best floor for the purpose in the county. The orchestra on most of these occasions consisted of two violins played by Ed ("Fiddler") Brown and Alex Barker, brothers-in-law, both fine violinsts and good "callers." Occasionally William Harris, from across the river, and William Thatcher of West Bend were the violinists, the latter doing the "calling." I question if there was an organ or a bass viol in the county at the time, and as for using drums and wind instruments for dance music, the very suggestions of such a thing would have been deemed ridiculous.

The Sunday school picnic early became an annual affair in Powhatan township, the people from Old Rolfe participating. They were usually held in either the A. H. Hancher or the Chas. Barlow (Conrow) groves. The program consisted of a brief religious service, a community dinner and lots of singing, accompanied by the first instrument of its kind in the county, the Barnes melodeon. This was a reed instrument, the forerunner of the organ, but cased differently. If not otherwise engaged the Rolfe drum corps was on hand to furnish martial music. During this era a young man from Marshalltown named George O'Dell became a member of the community. This party brought with him what was then called a horse swing, which was really an eight-seated merry-go-round. It was covered like a circus tent and propelled by a horse, preferably blind, or at least very docile, hitched to a short sweep inside the circle of seats. You could ride 15 times around for a dime. This affair was to be seen at every picnic and celebration in the territory for two or three years.

In those early days the church social took the form of a "donation," which was an annual affair.

These festive occasions were usually staged in the old courthouse at the beginning of winter, usually in November or early December. The purpose was two-fold. It was a rare social occasion with a big community dinner and an all-day visit with one's neighbors. But the main purpose was to provide for the preacher's support. All manner of needed supplies were contributed—sacks of corn and oats, potatoes, and vegetables of all kinds, cured hams and other meats, butter and eggs, in fact all kinds of pantry stores, promises of loads of hay and wood and some money. Sometimes a woman parishioner who had the time and inclination knit a couple pairs of socks for the preacher. Any minister who would turn up his nose at such a gift deserved a severe case of chilblains. And probably had them.

THE COURT HOUSE

On Jan. 1, 1869, my father, the late Thomas L. MacVey, assumed the duties of county recorder, to which office he had been duly elected the previous fall. During the first year of his incumbency he walked to and from the court house (we did not own a horse), taking his lunch with him and making coffee on his office stove. The family remained on the farm, the northeast quarter of section 36, Powhatan Township—about five miles away. At times he spent the entire week at the county seat, having a bed in his office, shared for a time by W. D. McEwen, then county auditor. J. J. Bruce, father of the Arrowman, was treasurer. On occasion my father drove a yoke of oxen that he might bring home stovewood and needed supplies.

The emoluments of the recorder's office at that early day averaged a little over $300 per year, or about $1 per working day. It was a fee office, as were all the county offices except treasurer and auditor, which paid fixed salaries.

The court house was 36 x 50 feet, 16 feet high, and built of brick that was made and burned on the Hait farm a short distance away. The lumber used was also cut and sawed there and used green. It was all hardwood except that soft maple was used for the floors and finish. The brick was of poor quality—soft—as Iowa corn land contains too much lime to be good brick material, but to quote my father and Mr. Hait, "The work was fairly well done and the lumber good." The building faced east and was traversed the entire length by a hall eight feet wide, flanked on either side by two offices, the north side having also a cross corridor at the east end which cut down the size of the adjoining office. This corridor was for the accommodation of the stairs, which started in the extreme northeast corner of the building. The first office on your left as you entered the building was that of the county treasurer. The other office on that side of the hall was occupied by the auditor. Directly across the hall from this was the recorder's office, and adjoining it was the smaller office for the clerk of the court and the superintendent of schools. In each of these four offices was a brick chimney built from the ground up. The first three offices enumerated were equipped with heavy cast Collins & Burgie stoves that burned four-foot wood.

On the second floor was the stair landing and small hall, with a jury room opposite, the rest of the floor being given over to a large courtroom which was heated by two stoves like those below. The only furnishings of the courtroom were two walnut tables, one large and one small, a few office chairs, and several long benches with backs painted a dingy blue, similar to the old-fashioned pews in a country church.

The furnishings of the three principal offices on the lower floor were identical, being meagre and plain to the point of austerity, and consisted in each instance of a bookcase of native inch-thick black walnut about three feet wide, six feet or more in height, and about 18 inches deep, to accommodate the bulky records, and closed with two doors reminding one of an old-fashioned wardrobe. There was a table large enough for two men to work on the records at once, and the usual complement of office chairs.

The fourth office, equipped with a combined bookcase and secretary, was designed for the use of the clerk of the court and the superintendent of schools, but during my knowledge of it, never was used for the purpose intended, though what happened there prior to 1870 I do not know. The court records were kept in the recorder's office, while the superintendent's equipment reposed with the treasurer. One death occurred in this vacant office, and two families lived there during my time. I knew them well.

The courthouse grounds embraced about an acre, which was fenced by a five-board fence with another board flat on top. There was only one gate, directly in front, which had been taken off its hinges and nailed against the fence to prevent the yard being used as a public corral. A well had been sunk south and slightly west of the courthouse at a cost of $1,800.00, but it was a failure, yielding but little water, and this the public was afraid to use because of the close proximity of an Indian burial ground where a number of skeletons had been unearthed while excavating for the courthouse foundation. Before 1870 this well had all caved in and the curb and uprights supporting the pulley-wheel leaned drunkenly to one side.

The death referred to in a previous paragraph was that of Edward, eldest son of George Goodchild, who had homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 20 in Powhatan township and was moving up from Fort Dodge in the spring of 1870. The two older boys, Edward, 19, and Henry, 13, were doing the teaming with two yoke of oxen on a covered wagon, camping wherever night found them, coming or going.

The season was wet and cold, the creeks and sloughs full, and progress with any ox-drawn load was of necessity slow, such roads as there were being only faint trails. The boys left Fort Dodge Saturday morning, April 7, reaching Rolfe the afternoon of the 10th, having been nearly four days making the 40-mile trip and still 10 miles from their destination. Both boys were tired, and Edward too ill with pneumonia to continue the journey. Next morning my father learned of their plight and took charge, sending Henry to C. J. Campbell's (on what is now the Mary Majorowicz farm—ed.) with a note asking for the loan of a horse that he might go for Dr. Underwood, who lived in Palo Alto county. Ted Tilley, who owned one of the few horse teams thereabouts, went to Fort Dodge for the parents. The sick boy was put to bed in the vacant office referred to, where he passed away April 19, 1870. Two days later this fine, gentle boy was laid away in "that low green tent whose curtain never outward swings," there to await the coming of him who hath said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Burial services were held in the brick school house with Rev. John W. Lothian, Pocahontas county's first recruit to the Christian ministry, it being his first funeral, and interment was made in the cemetery close by. The death angel is never a welcome guest, but the loss of a loved one among strangers in a strange land carries an added poignancy of grief and despair.

In the fall of 1870 the school board of Des Moines township engaged my mother, Mrs. R. W. MacVey, to teach the Rolfe school for the ensuing year, so our family moved to town and took our abode over the Bruce & McEwen store, the second story of which had been arranged for the occupancy of two families.

I have never forgotten my first acquaintance with the courthouse. It is still a vivid recollection. I went into the auditor's office with my father and "marveled much" at what I saw. A newly butchered hog reposed on my father's sawhorses, borrowed for the occasion; a tool chest was stored in one corner, and a surveyor's tripod and other instruments stood in another. Mr. McEwen was not in.

In the recorder's office my father's workbench and tool chest stood along the west side of the room. On the north wall hung two cased wolf pelts firmly stuffed with hay to keep them from shrinking. I was much afraid of them and kept away from that side of the room. These pelts increased by twos till there were eight in all, my father having a robe in mind. These hides were purchased from "Uncle Joe" Classon, who, although a lame man, was a cunning trapper and a crack shot. One of these wolves he shot in his stable at midday.

My father paid a dollar apiece for these pelts, which with the state and county bounty netted Mr. Classon $4 per pelt—not bad for those stringent times. My father used to take down one of these pelts and chase my brother and me and Jennie Matson about the room. I enjoyed the fun, but never got over my fear of the wolves. Mr. Bruce's office also housed a tool chest and some spades and forks. These were primitive times and storage facilities were at a premium.

In the winter of 1870-71 two families, the Pattersons and the Watermans, brothers-in-law, wintered upstairs in the courthouse, using the entire floor. The children attended my mother's school. What happened when court met, or if it met that winter, I cannot say. These people paid no rent, and burned county wood all winter, reducing it to stove length with a borrowed saw. Fine people, but very, very poor. This incident furnishes an early example of county relief. Mrs. Waterman was a bed-ridden invalid and died shortly after they moved to Minnesota in the spring. Mr. Patterson was a wagonmaker and built two vehicles during the winter in an annex to the Matson blacksmith shop, one a three-seated light rig and the other a farm wagon. Bruce & McEwen acquired both of these. The farm wagon was passed on to George Stevens of Powhatan township. Of the spring wagon I will speak later. Darwin, the eldest son of the Pattersons, was a fine painter and later became one of the leading interior decorators of St. Paul. One of the Waterman boys became a banker. We never know where genius lies, or from what humble sources inspiration may come.

After the removal of the county seat to Pocahontas the old courthouse and the lot were sold to J. J. Bruce. Mr. Bruce used the building as a granary and the lot for a hog pasture. The hogs, lacking mineral in their feed, ate great holes in the building, so large that fears were entertained that it would collapse. When the railways came and the new town of Rolfe was started, the building was torn down and the greater part of the oak and walnut joists, studding and rafters was transported to the new town and used in building the Tremont hotel. Some of the brick was also used in this building.

THE POCAHONTAS RIFLES AND THE ROLFE DRUM CORPS

Shortly after the Civil War there swept over the new west a wave of militarism, and military units were organized wherever sufficient population made it possible. This should not be considered an ebullition of the war spirit in epidemic form, or regarded as an aftermath of the war just closed, but rather a revival of the training days of our forefathers, the purpose of which was preparedness. Prior to 1860 volunteer infantry companies were to be found in the rural districts of New England and the middle states, while nearly all of the coast cities from Boston to New Orleans boasted of artillery units, with the idea in mind of repelling invasion from the sea.

Among the wealthy of the cities and all over the South the cavalry captured the popular imagination. The wealthy could purchase horses, while the South raised the finest saddle horses in America, and loved them. These organizations were kept up much as the brass band, the older men dropping out as the boys grew up and took their places. When the war broke out many of these military units, at least in the South and in the middle states, formed the nuclei of regiments in both armies. The New York White Hussars and the famous Black Horse Cavalry of the Confederate Army were notable examples. Many officers of both armies received their rudimentary training in these amateur companies.

About 1870 an artillery company was organized at Fort Dodge and it is my understanding that some of the old pre-war equipment that the U.S. Army left behind when the fort was abandoned was used in their maneuvers. Algona and Mason City made abortive attempts along this line, but it remained for the little hamlet of Rolfe, 40 miles from a railroad, to build up an effective military organization. All such units were a part of the National Guard.

During the winter of 1871-72 my father, the late Thomas L. MacVey, organized the Pocahontas Rifles and was commissioned captain of state militia by Governor C. C. Carpenter March 18, 1872. Forty-six volunteers were sworn into the service of the state and drilling began, Saturday afternoon being drill day and the courthouse yard the parade ground except in inclement weather, when the courtroom was used. All these recruits were from the northeast corner of the county. The country was new and the people poor, and the matter of uniforms was taken care of in an original way. Indiana blue-jeans in quantity sufficient to make trousers and jackets was secured at cost through the Bruce-McEwen store. The services of Seth G. Sharp, who lived across the river and had been a tailor in his earlier years, were secured. On a given date, which I cannot now recall, the recruits and their families assembled at the courthouse, where the uniforms were to be made. Mr. Sharp took measurements in the jury room and then repaired to a corner of the courtroom, where, upon a large table placed for his use, he marked and cut suits all day. The rest of the room was taken over by ever so many ladies, who did the basting under his supervision. The actual sewing of these garments was done on "the only sewing machines in the county at that time" (I quote J. J. Bruce here)—two Singers belonging respectively to Mrs. Lorimer and Mrs. Bruce, and Mrs. MacVey's Wheeler and Wilson. I have seen a replica of the latter in one of the St. Paul museums. These machines purred all day long, my father and Mr. Lorimer taking their turns at the machines and Miss Mary Barnes assisting Mrs. Bruce. A big community dinner was served by the families of the soldiers in the courthouse. As a matter of course a lot of horseplay was indulged in by the "boys," who were all young men, about half of whom had been in the Union Army. R. B. Fish had charge of a provost guard which arrested numerous offenders for drinking (coffee) and stealing from Bruce's cracker barrel, and like offenses. The culprits were sentenced to carry fuel, stir the beans and otherwise help the cooks. For me it was a great day in history.

The company was armed with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, equipped with bayonets, from the government arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois. These new weapons were considered the last word in man-killing devices, and were of .54 caliber. The accoutrements were of black leather and consisted of a cartridge box, a cap box and a bayonet scabbard, all attached to wide belt fastened under a large brass plate bearing the initials U.S.

A military company without a drum corps would be like "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out, and fortunately the material for one was at hand. R. B. Fish, who had served in the navy, was a good performer on the tenor drum. A. H. Lorimer, who had sailed the seven seas as first officer in the merchant marine, and later joined the navy and helped retake Fort Sumter, played the fife, and E. C. Brown, who, I believe, had also served on some waterfront, took over the bass drum, although somewhat handicapped by deafness. Then, and for several years thereafter, the strains of martial music could frequently be heard emanating from Courthouse hill.

On July 4, 1872, a grand celebration was held at McKnight's Point, and people from Humboldt, Palo Alto and Pocahontas counties were in attendance. The Pocahontas Rifles formed at the courthouse and with flag flying and drums beating marched to the picnic grounds. The panoply of war! Once on the grounds, the drum corps was augmented by a Mr. Kemmick, who lived a mile north of where Mallard now stands. He had been a drummer in a Wisconsin regiment which was a part of the famous Iron Brigade. He was a fine musician and played with the boys throughout the day. Incidentally Mr. Kemmick was a classmate of the famous western poet, Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The company went through the manual of arms at the picnic grounds and was nicely complimented by the Humboldt paper for what was probably a mediocre performance. In 1874 the military company was disbanded for lack of interest, the novelty having worn off, and the guns and accoutrements were sold at retail.

About this time Mr. Brown moved to Fonda and Mr. Lorimer to his farm, so they dropped out of the drum corps, Mr. Lorimer's place being taken by a Mr. Smith (nicknamed Flutey Smith), who was a contemporary and neighbor of C. H. Tollefsrude, and a professional school teacher. He was a fine musician and played the only silver fife the writer ever saw. Mr. Brown was succeeded

by Livingston Vaughn, who was not only an able drummer, but interspersed his performance with amusing stunts and clowning acts which I have never seen equalled. When he was going strong he simply "stole the show." He was a genial, kindly old man with a host of friends, who, when the weight of years grew too heavy for him, yielded the drumsticks to his son Carmi (grandfather of Virgil Vaughn of Rolfe) in the late eighties. In 1876 Albert Barnes of New Castle, Pa., spent the summer here and played with the drum corps. At home he was a member of the Gettysburg military band, being a drummer par excellence, and was also a fine violinist and singer. In 1878 "Flutey" Smith faded out of the picture and his place was ably filled by H. A. Chipman, who had been a fifer in a Minnesota regiment during the Civil War. All that has been said of Mr. Barnes applies to him. In 1883 D. D. Cornick took Mr. Fish's place as a drummer. It should be noted here that Mr. Cornick and two of his brothers had been drummers in the Union Army. About 1891 Mr. Cornick and Mr. Chipman both moved away, which broke up the drum corps for a time. But in the spring of 1897, after Mr. Cornick's return, it was revived, the personnel being Carmi Vaughn, bass drummer; D. D. Cornick, tenor drummer, and Lee Anderson of Bradgate, fifer. This trio played together until Carmi Vaughn passed to the great beyond in 1910, when the drum corps ceased to exist. Many of the present citizens of Rolfe and vicinity will remember the fine concerts rendered by this trio.

Few people of the present day can realize what the drums corps meant to this sparsely settled region, where distances were great, means of travel slow, and worthwhile entertainments infrequent. From the very outset, and on through the years, it was a much-appreciated feature at every Fourth of July celebration, county convention, Sunday School picnic, and Saturday afternoons at Old Rolfe, and even election day. It was the only drum corps I ever heard of in the county, and was in great demand. During the mild winter of 1877-78, that winter when no snow fell here, and plowing was done in each month throughout the entire winter, the drum crops played on election day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Washington's birthday and St. Patrick's day (quoting R. B. Fish).

GOD'S ACRE

"Here the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

I know of no more pleasant place to walk on a quiet afternoon than in an old cemetery. I love to do this and oft-times indulge myself in this way. And as I stroll through this sacred plot and commune with my thought I am filled with a great peace, and when I turn again to the dusty highway, the noisy town, and my humdrum tasks, I do so with renewed courage and hope. Here one may read the history of the community—fragmentary, to be sure, but history none the less. The brief, simple annals lettered on the stone tell the story. Each low mound is the earthly resting place of someone who was the object of another's deepest love. Here are the babies who dropped their toys and went from us long ago and left us with empty arms and aching hearts. Here are sweet young women, some of whom gave up their lives on the altar of motherhood. Here are splendid men cut down in the fulness of their physical and mental powers. And here also are those bent with the weight of years who have turned from their labors and slept. And some there are who have in their time drunk deeply of the bitter waters of disappointment, folly and disillusion, and here have found a peace they never knew in life. Whenever I view a group of mourners and their sympathizing friends as they move away from the newly made grave, this thought comes to me: They will all come again, not as today, but each in his turn, to be laid away out of sight, and this will go on and on until the end of time. And the snows will drift, and the rains fall on the ugly mounds of upturned clay, and grass—the forgiveness of nature—will come again and spread its green mantle as before.

There were three enclosed graves in the Old Rolfe cemetery when I first saw it. My father told me the names of the occupants and said they had gone on a long journey, and I did not fully understand. With the other children of the hamlet, I played at will among these graves—"the little fences," we called them. One of them was a painted picket fence, and the other two were post and rail. There were other graves also, but they were merely weedy, elongated mounds over which the cows walked, and we gave them but little thought. My parents taught me to respect, but never to fear, the resting place of the dead.

The first "little fence" mentioned protected the grave of Mrs. Chas. J. Campbell, who died Feb. 23, 1870. My father had full charge of her funeral and I remember that among the pallbearers were W. H. Hait, D. W. Hunt and Oscar Slosson. (These facts from my father). One of the post and rail fences was around the grave of Isabel McGilvery, wife of John Anderson, and the other enclosed the grave of a Mr. James, who was murdered in the north part of Humboldt County somewhere about the close of the Civil War. He was killed by his hired man with an oaken bed slat, the motive being robbery. The murdered man's son was later a Methodist preacher and served at West Bend for a time. Neither of these last two graves mentioned were ever marked by headstones, hence I have no data.

I can still recall vividly the first funeral I ever attended. A young couple from the East by the name of McClellan had for some time been inmates of the Perry Nowlen home. The young

wife died suddenly under very distressing circumstances. The funeral services were held in the old brick schoolhouse, where my mother was teaching at the time. She dismissed school as the cortege arrived. I can still recall the tear-wet faces of the women and their furtive whispering, and the awed silence among the men. One item of my mother's meager household equipment was a plain pine bench which my father had made and painted a deep wine color and varnished. Upon this bench in front of the teacher's desk was placed the casket. This was not the first appearance of this humble bench in this capacity, nor the last, as it was used at every funeral while we lived at Old Rolfe, and later at a few in Powhatan Township. Of the service that followed I can recall with clarity only these things: James J. Jolliffe, who as usual led the singing, arose and announced the hymn "Shall We Gather at the River?" I can still hear his splendid, vibrant baritone as he lifted it in this triumphant hymn. It looked for a moment as though he would sing it alone, when Chloe Slade, a 14-year-old girl, one of his pupils, blessed with a fine, clear soprano voice, bravely stepped to his side and sang with him. My father's fine tenor and Miss Ella Sharp's soprano also came to their aid. These four fine voices steadied the congregation and thus a measure of vocal coordination was attained. They had been too shaken with grief to sing. As the people filed slowly by the casket in the last farewell to the departed, James Jolliffe lifted me up and said, "My little man, would you like to see?" and then "This, my son, is life, and this is death." And I looked and saw a beautiful young woman asleep with flowers in her hands, and realized for the first time the majesty of death. In memory I can still see the stricken husband being gently led away from the coffin by Perry Nowlen, whose kindly, fatherly arm was laid across his shoulders. Other funerals there were later, but none that I recall as vividly as this one. How plastic is the mind of a child, and how lasting our early impressions! Among the pallbearers I remember my father, J. J. Jolliffe, Wm. Struthers Sr. and one or more of the Slades. I wandered through this grass-grown, neglected cemetery a few days ago in search of the grave in question, and I found inscribed on a small mouldering stone from which I had to scrape the moss this brief inscription:

Ellen
Wife of Wm. McClellan
Jan. 10, 1872
Aged 21 years

I would like to convey if I could some idea of the pioneer funeral. In every community there were always men or women both capable and willing to lay out the dead and prepare the body for burial. They closed the eyes when the spirit had fled and weighted the eyelids with coins if available, or, lacking these, little sacks of salt or flour, or whatever the poor household afforded. They sat up with the corpse at night that they might change the cloths which were soaked in saltpetre solution and placed over the face and hands. Other obliging neighbors would dig the grave. The nearest good carpenter gladly gave of his time and talent to make the coffin, sometimes furnishing part or all of the material. In 1867 my father and Mr. Hait sawed a number of large walnut logs into inch boards to be used for this purpose and dried and stored them. They also laid in a supply of coffin nails and screws, and both black and white cambric for linings and trimmings. This material was stored in a pigeon-hole in the recorder's office, where many of these coffins were made. The last time my father was in Iowa he told me he had made between 20 and 25 coffins during the time he lived here, and I can enumerate 16 of them now. These were lowered into the grave by means of the strongest pair of lines available, or with ropes from the ox teams. The first coffin my father made was for Mrs. Robert Lowry, who died May 15, 1867, and the last one for the 4-month-old child of Hans Jepson, whose death occurred Sept. 11, 1878. The coffins for the first six interments in Powhatan cemetery were also his handiwork, and one of these, a child's coffin, he made on a cold winter night in the Strong schoolhouse, then known as the "white" schoolhouse, walking out from Old Rolfe and carrying the necessary tools and one piece of material. He worked alone, by lamplight. All these kindly offices were performed by sympathizing neighbors without money and without price. The high cost of living was beginning to show its ugly head, but the high cost of dying had not yet arrived. The early funeral service itself differed little from that of today except that the singing was congregational, there being no organ or choir, and no undertaker being present, some neighbor of sufficient poise and judgment took charge. Precedent demanded that the members of the bereaved family array themselves in somber black, and in keeping with this, other members of the congregation wore the darkest and most dismal raiment they possessed. My mother brought from the East several black silk dresses and these were requisitioned from time to time for the use of mourners at funerals. Other women who possessed good black dresses were likewise called upon to help out on these occasions, lack of "mourning" being considered at variance with good taste. Heavy black veils, preferably of crepe, were an indispendable feature of proper mourning attire. When I was 11 years old my mother sent me on our pony to Old Rolfe to borrow from Mrs. Wm. Jarvis a black veil she was known to possess that a widow might wear it at her husband's funeral. In the evening I returned it. Men wore bands of black crepe on their hats. Among my keepsakes is the crepe I wore on my hat after my mother's passing on April 17, 1892—45 years ago. About this time a crusade against the use

of mourning was inaugurated and raged for several years. A famous German Evangelical preacher in the East inveighed against the custom and accused his people et al of "mourning with sheep's wool and gauze." The custom gradually yielded.

It would be a rash person indeed who would now attempt to say whose was the first interment in this Old Rolfe cemetery, or when and where. Wm. H. Hait told me many years ago that there were as many unmarked graves as were marked and no plats existed. Robert Roy (the father of the late Mrs. Mattie Cook--ed.), who was sexton for eight years, confirms this statement. The other day I counted 58 marked graves. The oldest inscription I could find read "Wm. B. Strong, June 26, 1866." That several interments antedated this there isn't a shadow of doubt. By some strange twist of fate, none of the men who here made history and guided the political destinies of the county during the 16 years that Old Rolfe was the county seat, lie buried here. Some of these found their last resting place far from the scene of their early triumphs and failures. Among them, David Slosson, first judge of Pocahontas County, 1859; Oscar Slosson, first sheriff; Henry Jarvis, second sheriff, and David Miller, county superintendent 1870-71 and 1878-79, found sepulture in the far-away state of Washington. E. C. Brown, first recorder, 1867-68, is buried in California, while Thos. L. MacVey, second county recorder, 1869-75, sleeps his last sleep at Jennings, La.

RAMBLING REMINISCENCES

It has been made plain in previous articles that the brick schoolhouse at Old Rolfe was the first building of its kind in the county, and was a county rather than a township school. By what legal metamorphosis it became a township building is no immediate concern of ours. To quote Kipling, "That's another story." The second schoolhouse in this corner of the county, and the first in Powhatan Township, was erected in the spring of 1866 somewhere near the site of the Powhatan cemetery. It was built by J. C. Van Natta and Ira Strong of native lumber sawed at Hait's mill. It was boarded up and down with boards of varying widths, and had a rounding roof of boards bent over the ridgepole like unto a freight car. Size, 10 x 16, 7 feet high. It was lighted on each side by a half window which slid back and forth in a groove. The school furniture consisted of a heavy board 18 or 20 inches wide fastened shelf fashion along each side of the room to serve as desks, in front of which were heavy wooden benches, all of native lumber. The wall at the back end furnished space for wraps and a blackboard. A chance remark of my mother's caused it to be known as the "daguerrean car," a name that stuck to it through the years. The first election in the township was held here, at which my father was elected township assessor.

The first term of school in the township was taught by Sarah Thomas in a sod house on the southeast corner of the Joel Thomas homestead, (now the Roy Simonson farm—ed.). When the schoolhouse was built the first teacher was a young woman of the Strong family, but I am not sure which one. The second term was taught by George Strong, who later was county surveyor. He eventually entered the ministry and died in the far west.

In the spring of 1868 the Strong schoolhouse was erected, Ed Hammond being the contractor, and the "daguerrean car," having been built on skids, was hauled by ox teams to a knoll on the southeast corner of the Samuel Booth homestead (Dr. Lyon's farm), John Fraser, Jerry Young, Henry Fulcomer and my father furnishing the motive power. Here my mother taught prior to our moving to Old Rolfe, and again after our return to the farm. In the interval the schoolhouse had been moved to the southwest corner of the same farm and Mary Barnes had taught the school. This itinerant schoolhouse was next moved to the Goodchild-Petit neighborhood, and while the more permanent schoolhouse was being built my mother taught her last term in Iowa in our home, using the factory-made seats and desks which had been secured for the school-to-be.

Returning to the Strong schoolhouse, it was of the type that prevailed all over Iowa for a quarter of a century, painted white, and equipped with factory desks and seats—in other words, an up-to-date schoolhouse. This was known for miles around as "the white schoolhouse," being the first in the county to be painted white. It was the community center and polling place for nearly 20 years, and church services and funerals were also held there during this period. A resume of all that transpired there would be a history of the community. Here I first attended a religious service. I have but little recollection of it, being more interested in the things that engage the attention of a small child. I can still recall my wonderment and admiration of the desks, whose varnished surfaces felt so smooth to my touch. The extreme simplicity of the era was reflected in the garb of the people—women wearing clean calico dresses and neat sunbonnets, and many of the men hickory shirts and jean pants with homemade suspenders of bedticking, while children, some of them half grown, and many of the men were barefoot. The only white shirt in the house was worn by the preacher, whoever he might be. I was impressed, too by the stature of the men, my father being a small man. There were eight men in the two Strong families, and three Thomas men, all six feet tall or more, and six of these men wore long, heavy, black beards. Another six-footer who was a regular attendant was Andrew Jackson, who lived where Plover now is. He was the largest man of the 12, and also wore a heavy beard, but his was blond. I question if another locality in the county regularly assembled a dozen

men of such superb stature. Many of the worshipers lived near by and came on foot. Those from farther away came in wagons, about half of them drawn by oxen. There was only one buggy in this corner of the county, that belonging to W. H. Hait at Old Rolfe. During haying and harvest the people rode on hayracks.

When consolidation of schools was effected in Powhatan township the "white schoolhouse" was sold to N. A. Lind. The "daguerrean car" was given a new roof and a coat of paint and equipped with modern desks and seats.

A marked difference between the religious services of the present day and those of 60 years ago is largely a matter of duration. The old-time Sunday service was a long drawn-out affair. This was especially true of the evangelical churches. As a boy I used to wonder how the preachers held out so long. During the few years we lived at Old Rolfe I attended Sunday School irregularly, and as I look back upon those years I note this difference. There was more formality about the services at Old Rolfe than there was at the "white schoolhouse," though there was no lack of reverence at either place. Be it remembered that the river settlers differed from those on the prairie in two important particulars. The former had arrived here nearly 10 years earlier than those in Powhatan, hence were established and in better financial circumstances. Also, the majority of them were from England, Scotland or Canada, while the prairie settlers were of native American stock.

Denomination meant but little those days. The same people turned out regardless of who preached. Sunday School meant little to small children then. To engage their attention and keep them quiet, they were taught their ABC's or given exercises in McGuffey's first and second readers. At least such was my experience. The Barean leaf had not yet arrived, anyway, not here. I never saw one till I was 10 years old. Its advent was hailed as a great boon by the religious world, and such it was. My first Sunday School teacher, or the only one I recall, was Mrs. Wm. Jarvis, a kindly, benevolent Christian lady who had no children of her own, hence mothered them all. She employed methods above described, using a large bodkin to indicate the letter or word. If a child did fairly well she rewarded him by assuring him he was "quite forward." She relieved the tedium of the lesson by giving us cake at intervals. I had great respect for Mrs. Jarvis. She was a good teacher and she made good cake and sometimes there were currants in it. The two classmates whom I recall were Laura Van Natta and Jennie Matson. They have both been dead these many years.

Quarterly meeting was the day of days in the church calendar and invariably brought out a larger congregation than ordinary Sundays. The men came, most of them bearded, and uncomfortable in their sun-faded black suits with coattails flopping to their knees, and the women went swishing up the aisle in their stiff-bodiced black silk dresses with the voluminous skirts of that era, redolent with the odor of camphor gum, their hair parted in the middle and neatly coiled on the back of the neck, and topped by a poke bonnet. No bobbed hair then. In cold weather they wore shawls, Paisley shawls from across the tossing sea, shawls from the textile mills of Scotland. My mother brought one of these west when she came from Virginia. How well I remember it! I haven't seen a Paisley shawl in many years.

THE COVERED WAGON

Among my earliest recollections are those of the covered wagons which passed by our place headed toward the westering sun and the land of promise. These pilgrims generally came in trains. I distinctly recall one group of movers which must have included at least a dozen wagons and apparently as many families. Usually, however, there were but four or five wagons in the train, and on rare occasions they came singly. These outfits used either all horses or all oxen, as horse teams and oxen do not pace together. As the ford on Pilot Creek on our old farm was shallow, wide, and had a good bottom, it was considered the best crossing within 10 miles, hence all the mover traffic converged there and sometimes camped near our house. This enabled me to see many more caravans than would otherwise be the case. There was a strange similarity about the wagons, if not about their occupants. Each wagon was fitted with a feedbox for the horses against the hind endgate. In these boxes reposed kettles, frying pans, coffee pots and fuel for the next fire, and frequently the ax. Swinging from a hook on the side of the wagon was the waterpail. Sometimes there was a pail on either side. A double-barreled shotgun was always in evidence, and occasionally a long rifle. Accompanying these migratory people was nearly always a herd of cattle averaging at least a milk cow to the family and sometimes considerably more. Cattle were cheap and the open range a universal heritage. The passing of these trains across the prairie was by no means a triumphal progress. This virgin land was, to say the least, wet. Creeks were to be crossed, or avoided if possible, and sloughs negotiated. I imagine 20 miles a day was a fair average, considering the cattle that accompanied the expeditions. I remember distinctly that in nearly every team there was a blind horse. When I inquired of my father why this was so, he explained that blind horses were cheap and the people poor, no one would steal them, they never strayed, and frequently prevented their mates who could see from doing so.

For the greater part these emigrants were honest, Godfearing citizens with the grit and backbone necessary for conquering the wilderness, but

occasionally a hardboiled bunch showed up. I remember one such outfit that camped at Old Rolfe whose actions aroused the suspicions of J. J. Bruce, who slept that night with one eye open. In the middle of the night he heard someone open the outside cellar door, which was directly beneath his window. Mr. Bruce cautiously seized his bullseye lantern and gathering a club from the woodpile, walked in on the thieves, who were in the back of the cellar where the Bruce and MacVey meat barrels were kept. They were about to emerge, each with a generous helping of pork. The presence of the big man with the "big stick" instantly cowed them and they whined for mercy, pleading poverty, hard times, etc., whereupon Mr. Bruce generously gave them enough bacon for breakfast and dismissed them with a stern lecture. In the morning it was discovered that it was the MacVey barrel that had been raided and Mr. Bruce made restitution, and the families had something to laugh about afterward.

I went one evening to call my father to supper and noted some movers camped in the usual place south of the courthouse fence. We heard the report of a gun and some excited talk, when two young men came hastily into my father's office. One of them had been shot in the left side and arm by the accidental discharge of a shotgun he had been removing from the wagon. His shirtsleeve was nearly burned off and the arm blackened by smoke, he was bleeding some and badly frightened. My father procured some hot water and castile soap, cleaned the arm which had perhaps 25 shot in it, bandaged it to stop hemorrhage and wet it with spiritus frumenti which magically appeared from an adjoining office, and advised them to return at once to Fort Dodge and secure proper medical attention, as the weather was very warm. They followed his advice, eating their supper hurriedly and departing. I have not told it all, as that part of the load which missed the man's arm struck one of their horses full in the face and blinded it. We never saw or heard of them again and can only speculate on how this accident probably changed the entire course of their lives.

When we lived at Old Rolfe the mover wagons came straggling through all summer long. They were so frequent as to excite little comment or curiosity. It always seemed to me that the dirty, frowsy specimens of God's erring children camped on the south side of the courthouse yard (no one was allowed to camp inside the yard) while the neat, tidy ones went on west and camped north of the old cemetery. But probably this was just a notion. Where so many camped south of the courthouse and fed their teams, several kinds of grass not indigenous to the country, the only nettles I ever saw, and a number of other strange weeds sprang up.

I recall one train of emigrants who were presumably all Germans, at least their spokesman was. He was a big, bearded man who came to our door and frightened our hired girl with his foreign speech. My mother came to the rescue with her college German and gave him the desired information. I remembered his pleasure at hearing his native tongue. The route of their hegira was through Fort Dodge, Humboldt, and Old Rolfe, with Sioux Rapids as their next objective, and this seemed to be the regular route to "the country beyond."

Another train of movers deserves mention in this article. In the summer of 1869 a train of wagons drove up to our door evidently seeking the ideal location. They had started from Cattaraugus County, New York, spent some time investigating Delaware County in this state, then on to Jones County for a while, and finally, as I have said, wound up at our door. I cannot at this late day recall the names of all of them, but among them were Andrew Jackson, James Vosburg and Stephen Petit with their families, also George Stevens and Sanford Bensley, both unmarried. They camped at our place a couple of weeks while they looked over the country, then turned thumbs down on Pocahontas County and started back east. My father wrote a humorous bit of verse descriptive of their wanderings and their undecided state of mind and tacked it on the rear of the last wagon in the train, where they discovered it when they made camp at Humboldt the first night. This bit of doggerel caused them to stop and reflect and they spent two or three days at Humboldt making inquiries, then those I have named, with the exception of Sanford Bensley, I believe, turned about and drove back to Powhatan township, where they located and remained for a number of years. Eventually all moved away except George Stevens, who, having married, remained (and now lies at rest in the Powhatan cemetery). The only descendant of all this Cattaraugus County cavalcade now living in Pocahontas County is his daughter, Mrs. Tom Heathman of Rolfe, the only survivor of her family. Emma, the eldest daughter of the Vosburg family, lies in an unmarked grave at Old Rolfe.

Nor were the emigrants all young people. I have seen among these pilgrims many a man past the meridian of life "whose eye was not dim nor his natural force abated,"

"For age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress."

The motive of most migration was to obtain a home where taxes did not annoy or interest make afraid. Some achieved this and others fell far short of it. The covered wagon of the emigrant has gone with the years, the winding prairie trail has been obliterated by tillage, the fords where their caravans crossed the streams are forgotten, their circled camps are a memory and the ashes of their campfires scattered by the winds of half a century, and I wonder if the pioneer spirit is dead in America. In closing this epic of the pio-

neer I cannot pay a finer tribute than to quote these beautiful lines of Will Carleton:

"When the springtime touch is lightest,
When the summer eyes are brightest
  Or the autumn sings most drear;
When the winter air is whitest,
  Sleep, old pioneer!
Safe beneath the sheltering soil,
  Late enough you crept;
You were weary of the toil
  Long before you slept.
Well you paid for every blessing,
  Bought with grief each day of cheer;
Nature's arms around you pressing,
Nature's lips your brow caressing,
  Sleep old pioneer!

When the hill of toil was steepest,
When the forest brown was deepest,
  Poor, but young, you hastened here;
Came where solid hope was cheapest—
  Came—a pioneer.
Made the western jungles view
  Civilization's charms;
Snatched a home for yours and you
  From the lean tree-arms.
Toil had never cause to doubt you—
  Progress' path you helped to clear;
But today forgets about you,
And the world rides on without you—
  Sleep, old pioneer!

Careless crowds go daily past you,
Where their future fate has cast you,
  Leaving not a sigh or tear;
And your wonder-works outlast you—
  Brave old pioneer!
Little care the selfish throng
  Where your heart is hid,
Though they thrive upon the strong,
  Resolute work it did.
But our memory-eyes have found you,
  And we hold you grandly dear;
With no workday woes to wound you,
With the peace of God around you—
  Sleep, old pioneer!"

—Frank L. MacVey

Remember When

Moments and incidents of the past are forgotten until someone brings to your attention some event and then a flood of memories comes forth. So "Remember When" is designed to help open the "flood-gates" of the past, and other incidents can be recalled. Pages of many more happenings could be recorded here; this is just a beginning and you can "write" the rest.

REMEMBER WHEN . . .

Rolfe's sidewalks were boards and the streets were mud . . .

Donald Hansell and others were hired by the Scenic Theater to walk up and down main street with a megaphone shouting, "First show starts right away!" . . . and later on in the evening "Second show starts right away!" . . .

no music ever equalled the pounding of the player piano in the old Scenic Theater . . .

Rolfe had six passenger trains daily including the "eight o'clock flyer" and the "five-fifteen" . . . when you could ride the M and St. L to Fort Dodge in the morning and return in the evening . . .

you religiously followed the serial "The Perils of Pauline" every Friday night at the old Scenic . . .

you would lie in bed and hear the steam whistle of a train in the distance and go to sleep dreaming of far-off places . . .

the railroad section workmen had hand-pumped cars on which to travel . . .

John Lothian and his pony, Dewey, met all the trains, hauling all the mail, baggage and express . . . were you ever a witness to one of Dewey's runaways down main street caused by a prankster (perhaps you) . . . how Howard Clark, C. & N.W. depot agent, would admonish John to hurry with the delivery of shipped-in ice cream to "keep it from freezing" in 20° below zero weather . . .

the chain-drive one-cylinder automobiles that some of the most prosperous farmers in the area drove to town to do their trading . . . made you green with envy . . .

you first thought you were man enough to try smoking cornsilk . . .

someone inadvertently dropped cigar ashes in Webb's window display of fireworks and Clint Morrison couldn't get out the door and was kept busy dodging Roman candles and skyrockets shooting in all directions inside the store . . .

one of Rolfe's citizens stopped at the post office for his mail while hauling a load of manure from his barn in town to his farm and Bill Taylor, without being observed, put the spreader in gear and the manure was spread all the way down main street . . .

it took all day to get to Lake Okoboji—the E. A. Messingers, one of the first Rolfe families to have a cottage there, would ride the train to Sioux Rapids and then bicycle the rest of the way . . .

the climbing ability of new automobiles was always demonstrated on the "Bradgate Hill" . . .

demountable rims and self-starters "revolutionized" the automobile industry and the closed-in winter-top was a luxury that would never be improved upon . . .

you followed Bert Wood, Adolph Thompson or Jim George around the ice wagon delivery route hoping to salvage a piece of chipped ice when it was 100° in the shade . . .

main street was finally paved and Highway 44 was hard-surfaced into our town . . .

you could pick strawberries on shares at Jim Sandy's place just east of town . . .

bathing facilities for men were available in barber shops . . .

Rolfe's first golf course was started along Pilot Creek, just north of the old Pikertown school . . .

Fred or Hans Hille could tailor a suit to fit you . . . maybe John Junge or Gus Perigal did the job for you . . .

Jerry Graeber "buzzed" the hometown during World War II in his Douglas Dive-bomber and landed on Highway 44, the wheels just fitting on the edges of the pavement . . .

lightpole sitting was all the rage and Rolfe produced its share of participants . . .

our city park was a wilderness before the local golf enthusiasts started cleaning it up . . .

the girls who first bobbed their hair were considered quite brazen and forward—almost sinful (how times do change!) . . .

cattle were driven to town and through the streets to the stockyards for rail shipment, many times resulting in hard feelings over trampled gardens and lawns . . .

the school students struck in protest when Supt. Evans' contract was not renewed . . .

Rolfe's high school orchestra won First at the national music contest in Madison, Wisconsin . . .

William Jennings Bryan gave his famous "Cross of Gold" lecture from the Chautauqua platform . . . Chatauqua being the medium through which culture and entertainment reached the public from the 1880's through the 1920's . . . would be held every afternoon and evening for a week, sometimes ten days . . . the Junior Chautauqua programs in which local youngsters displayed their talents . . .

Emmet Meech hauled "coal oil" (kerosene) to all the surrounding area with his horse-drawn tank wagon . . .

Slim Davidson was convinced that the Ford Motor Company had reached "never-to-be-surpassed" heights when the Model A was placed on the market, replacing the Model T . . .

the Rolfe High School colors—Old Gold and Red—were first adopted, at the suggestion of Frank Richey, class of 1904 . . .

suit clubs were all the rage and many acquired a new suit for little money . . .

Dr. E. W. Wilson's saltless diet brought many health-seeking individuals to our community, even from other states . . . he also pioneered in ultraviolet ray treatments . . .

Ed. Rickard originated Rolfe script money during the depression and also suggested the five-cent movie as a business stimulant . . .

N. C. Lind, nationally known in the cattle field, traveled clear to Scotland to buy cattle . . .

Everyone lined up along the streets to watch the first car in Rolfe, owned by C. A. Grant in 1904, go by . . .

Pete Johnson would sell rides in his Reo automobile at picnics . . .

the strength of a team of horses was measured by its ability to pull out cars when stranded in mud holes . . .

Rolfe was known throughout the state as the "Basketball Town" in 1937 and 1938 . . .

many an unsuspecting citizen was victimized by Fred Hille's phony radio announcing at Hunter's Cream Station . . .

the finest half-mile race track in northwest Iowa was in Rolfe . . .

all the equipment the fire department had was a hand-powered "hose reel" cart . . .

Bud (Valentine) Hauck smashed the milk pail and told his father the cow kicked him and broke his arm . . . when he really broke it playing football . . .

Forrest Grant set a record by driving through the crooked bridge just north of Manson at 60 M.P.H. in his "merry Hupmobile" . . .

"Doc" Butler and Elmer Colebough, both fast walkers, staged an all-day golfing marathon in the 1920's, starting at daybreak and ending after dark, playing non-stop, even eating while on the go . . . with Ed Duffy checking on their progress periodically from the top of the elevator . . .

"Pete the marshal" (L. P. Peterson) was chief of police, water superintendent, street commissioner and general maintenance man—each a full time job and he did them all at the same time . . .

Marion Hollis won the state declamatory contest . . .

A. R. Graham collided with a train, completely demolishing his Model T, but he and his pipe came out unscathed . . .

W. S. Butler would walk to town (more than three miles) over ten-foot snow drifts rather than miss a Masonic Lodge meeting . . .

almost every residence had a little building located near the back of the lot (before the days of the sewer system), creating temptations for pranksters every Halloween . . .

the Lighter boys delivered milk around town in their buggy pulled by the "old gray mare" . . .

Ruth and Morris Webb's cart and burro were the envy of all their contemporaries . . .

the sweetest watermelons were the ones intentionally "borrowed" from some unsuspecting farmer . . .

Bob Kent and Shirley Thornton were the "Beau Brummels" of the town . . .

Bill Matson delivered groceries for Hauck's store with a horse and wagon . . .

it was necessary to use a sack to hold all the candy you could buy for two cents . . .

the ladies in Rolfe had their choice of chapeaus at three millinery stores . . .

Ward Ferguson carried on his duties as Grand Keeper of Records and Seals of the State Knights of Pythias Lodge from an office in Rolfe . . .

Pete Johnson's price for a sack of fresh vegetables which he delivered to the local restaurants was "about a quartah and a ceegah" . . .

Fred Malcolm and W. P. Wheeler did the surveying in this area . . .

J. P. Lester, the Presbyterian minister, served as scoutmaster and athletic official along with his regular church duties . . .

a check-cashing service was operated by J. H. Brinkman in his basement office during the period following the depression when our town had no bank . . .

Florence Fuller went "clear to Baltimore" to study medicine . . .

there was no better Model T mechanic in the state than Frank Wheeler . . .

Lee Hixson graveled the streets with his fleet of big International trucks . . .

the cracker barrel in the grocery store stood so invitingly open and you watched with awe as the proprietor sliced off big chunks of cheese . . . and the never-to-be-forgotten coffee grinder . . .

Rolfe boasted two hotels—the Clifford and Tremont . . .

Julius White's vision was still good enough to repair watches at the age of ninety-five . . .

a familiar sight in all grocery stores was the bunch of bananas suspended from the ceiling . . .

revival meetings were annual (sometimes oftener) affairs . . .

barn dances were held at DeWolfs and Cruickshanks—the fiddlers being Lillegard, Douglas, Buck, Nielsen and others . . .

you went to Ed McMann or Bill Jones for all your harness needs—and W. P. McIntire or Lee Holt for your house furnishings . . .

you were forced to practice for your weekly piano lesson under Vara James, Amy Ireland, Mrs. W. P. Wheeler, Mrs. Ben Green and others . . .

AND REMEMBER . . .

the unknown fear you felt when catching a glimpse of the shiny, black, horse-drawn hearse starting its long slow trek toward the cemetery . . .

swimming in "cowheart," the ol' swimming hole in Pilot Creek just below the slaughter house . . . the water would be considered far too unsanitary to bathe in today, but somehow many of us are still around to tell about it . . .

the five-inch firecrackers that would blow a coffee can three stories high . . .

the joyous Armistice Day celebration in 1918 when school was dismissed so the students could witness the hanging of Kaiser Wilhelm in effigy . . .

Webb's deal on root beer, "the beer that made Milwaukee jealous"—"All you could drink for a nickel as long as you held one hand on the bar" and Charlie Webb's stock answer to the question "What's in that root beer?"—"A lot of profit" . . .

the Fourth of July when the first airplane landed in Rolfe—a biplane with its open cockpit . . .

Fong Lee, the operator of the Chinese laundry, who was the only victim of the cyclone in 1903 . . .

the dances in the old opera house and Lawrence Welk's orchestra, then unknown, would travel from South Dakota to furnish the music on many occasions . . .

the grandstand that stood south of the race track in the city park that seemed to be larger than those in Soldiers Field . . .

the night the Charlton-Bowen egghouse burned in the dead of winter . . .

the annual visit of Geo. D. Sweet's tent show . . .

the mystery to all when at the end of the threshing season, Henry Brinkman had forty acres plowed on his farm south of Rolfe and no one saw him do it as he was part of a threshing crew during all daylight hours . . .

the first time you took your girl to Webb's subway for an ice cream soda and marveled at the marble floor studded with silver dollars . . .

the depression era when wood cutting crews provided fuel for the community churches during the winter by cutting wood along the Des Moines Moines river . . . three active participants were "Doc" Jones, "Doc" Butler and Charlie Bowen . . .

the 20's when the students came home from college wearing coonskin coats and dresses were shorter than they are now (can that be possible?) . . .

the years when the hot-shot golfers of the community were Frank Nacke, Rev. Geo. Theobald, Zack Carroll, Arch Mather, "Doc" Butler, Fred Hille, Carl White, E. S. Colebough and Dr. E. L. Hollis . . .

the cry "bee-bee" which was the signal to run and hook a ride on a bobsled . . .

the local livestock dealers of years gone by—Morg Blessing, Perry McCray, Charles Green, Casey Coffin, A. R. Graham, H. C. Wiegman and Leslie Hughes—these names no doubt recall memories of many transactions . . .

J. K. Lemon's Cadillac touring car and Deane Trick's big black sedan . . .

the antics of "Cap" Grant, Henry and Floyd Weigman, Marsh and Guy Graham, the Wheeler twins, Frank, Shannon and Clyde Charlton, Luther Thompson, Clyde Brinkman, Perry and Lou White, the Wiewel boys and many more that you will think of—many were the "victims" of these fun-minded pranksters . . .

the days when basketball required stamina enough to play THREE games in one day if you played in the finals of the county tournament . . .

Rolfe's undefeated football team of 1916 . . . and the team that beat Manson 96-0, a game in which every man on the squad scored . . .

the $20.00 silk shirt era following World War I . . .

the gypsy bands' visits which always caused much apprehension to the local citizenry . . .

the Presbyterian minister's son, Ewen McEwen, who attended school in Rolfe and later became dean of the medical college at S.U.I.; Alvin Bryan, Methodist minister's son, who became dean of the dental college at S.U.I.; and the local farmer's son, Virgil Hancher, who became president of that same institution . . .

some of the members of Rolfe's first football team—Dr. Gus Everson, Ray Russell, Frank Richey, Glen and Kenneth Squires . . .

Eugene Lighter and Earl Chambers as Rolfe's excellent athletic representatives at Coe College . . .

the weekly bank night in the theater when you didn't dare miss for fear your name would be drawn . . .

the Garrison Photographic Studio, "the" photographer of the area . . .

the thrill of driving a Model T with both "ears" (spark and gas levers) pulled clear down . . .

the confusion of every housewife, newly arriving in the community, being asked to make a salad or a cake in a "Cora Lighter pan," a complimentary gift to every housewife in the community many years ago . . .

Clyde Charlton, Art Gunderson and Art White being good enough athletes to play in Big Ten football competition . . .

the "Hee-Haw News," weekly tidbits in Arrow of humor and of local characters, carried on for years by J. T. Grant & son . . .

the night the Rolfe Grain Company elevator started burning and burned for three or four months . . .

the severity of the winter of '36 ending the stories told by old-timers of any previous era . . .

the medicine wagon's periodic visits to the community selling a product guaranteed to cure anything and everything . . .

some of Rolfe's legislators—C. L. Gunderson, Marion (Barney) Bruce, Jens Thompson, Earl Chambers, "Doc" Butler with the most notable campaign being Bruce's "Jackass Campaign" . . .

the first train that came to Rolfe . . .

hearing the whistles of the steam threshing rigs at dawn and at dusk as they signaled each other over the miles . . .

Rob Roy, the weather prophet and statistician for this area . . .

Anna Vaughn's memorable musical reading "Hats" . . .

M. P. Hancher's and H. F. Olerich's Poland-China Hog Sales which brought buyers from many states . . .

M. W. (Pinky) Webb's well-known business slogan; "Don't say 'Have you got it'": say 'Gimme!' We have everything-almost." . . .

the night C. C. Delle, the venerable attorney, lost his life when his home burned . . .

the impressionable admonishments of our beloved Miss Marcum in high school . . .

the vociferous boosting by Charlie Sroufe of the candidacy of "Roosenveldt" in the early 30's and his equally blasphemous condemnation of the opposition . . .

the days of "front porch sitting" in the summer evenings . . .

Harris Thomas, his big bass horn and his ability to tell big yarns . . .

some of the men you may have argued with about grain prices in years past—Lou Larson, Geo. Ivey, Geo. Arnold, Earl Ferguson, Frank Charlton, Guy Graham, Ben Bryson and Ed. Duffy . . .

the solemn realization of the folly of war when the body of one who made the supreme sacrifice on foreign soil arrived home for final burial . . .

the tragic drowning of Jimmy Schultz in Pilot Creek and the mass efforts of thousands in dragging and damming the creek searching for the body . . .

the impression it made on you the first time you saw the stone lion on the W. D. McEwen lawn . . .

O. T. Olson, the eccentric blacksmith, who could fix anything (if he was up to it) . . .

J. H. Wilson, the carpenter and county treasurer who could hit a cuspidor at twenty paces . . .

the slogan of A. B. Symes Hardware store "We make the price" . . .

the old sign at the golf course, "For the sake of Gadd (caretaker for many years), replace cut turf" . . .

the community sings on Sunday afternoon in the school auditorium . . .

the gate at the entrance of the Markin farm just northeast of town where you could open and close the gate just by pulling a rope without dismounting from your buggy or wagon . . .

OR DID YOU EVER . . .

skate on Thompson's pond or slide down Lighter's hill . . .

attend one of Charlie Webb's birthday parties, be his guest at a movie and receive a free lollipop . . .

carry water for the elephants when a circus came to town . . .

hire out as a helper to assist in re-tarring the Rolfe Auto Company roof, an unforgettable experience . . .

own a "hoop and wheel" . . .

attend a picnic at the old Woodmen Park on the Des Moines River. . .

No doubt most of you have already thought of scores of happenings not mentioned here (depending on your age and memory)—some humorous and others tragic—and through your own "interpretation" of them, each happening in its own way has helped to make you what you are.

May YOUR reminiscences be many and meaningful!

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